

Community Issues Report

THIRD QUARTER 2012

Meredith Corporation
WHNS FOX Carolina

10/09/12

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COMMUNITY ISSUES
07/1/12 – 09/30/12

Consumer, Health & Safety

An interest in knowing about events that impact our daily lives. A need for information about how to be wise shoppers of goods and services and how to live healthy and safe lives.

Crime

A need to know about crime and law enforcement activities and a concern for personal safety.

Education

A concern about the money and skills needed to improve schools and an interest in improving student's quality of education.

Environment

A concern for how the environment is affected by human activity.

Government

An interest in how government affects our personal lives

Jobs/Economy/Growth

An interest in the local and national economic outlook and the impact growth has on our communities

Quality of Life

An interest in things that improve one's satisfaction with life

The following pages list representative samples of program segments from The Ten O'clock Newscast, and The Morning Newscast during this quarter that respond to our ascertained issues. Each segment was 20 seconds to 3 minutes in length (except as otherwise reported).

The following pages also identify issue-responsive episodes of programs, which are listed under the appropriate issue as well as public service announcements.

WHNS also broadcasts news and weather cut-ins as needed to inform local community of breaking news and emergencies.

Attachments



Consumer, Health & Safety

**PROGRAMS ADDRESSING PROBLEM/NEED
THIRD QUARTER 2012**

Problem/Need: **CONSUMER, HEALTH & SAFETY**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PROGRAM</u>
Saturdays (airs weekly)	6:30am	TODAY'S HOMEOWNER

Description: A half-hour weekly television show that features information on how to maintain and improve your home, both inside and out. The approach to home improvement helps everyone from the experienced do-it-yourselfer to the first time homeowner. Projects are taken from start to finish in each weekly episode. (30:00)

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS AIRED:

- Nutrition Education
- Lead Poisoning Prevention
- American Dental Association
- Asthma Association
- CPR, Texting & Driving
- Big Brothers/Big Sisters
- Autism Awareness

July 3, 2012

Instead of getting out picnic baskets, Upstate police are ramping up their patrols for the July 4 fireworks celebrations. That's because last year in Gaffney, police were targeted by teens setting off fireworks on the holiday. Gaffney police said it's Granite Drive where there has been riots over the last few years. Capt. Chris Skinner with the Gaffney Police Department said there were about 500 people on Granite Drive last Fourth of July setting off fireworks and damaging county and city patrol cars. Neighbors in the area say they dread the Fourth of July because when they'd want to be sitting on their porches and enjoying fireworks, they deal with teenagers who come from across the city, carrying backpacks full of fireworks. They said it's not just the next-day mess but the actual night of July 4. The intense amount of fireworks popping constantly until 3 a.m. or 4 a.m. scares their pets and them. "If the kids are sitting out here, they come from (one) end to (the other) end, if they're throwing at (each other), they can hit somebody else and hurt them," said neighbor Joyce Logan. Skinner said this year, there will be many more officers patrolling the area, but also, the police department hopes a new ordinance set by the

City Council this past winter will help. It states that people cannot set off any fireworks between 11 p.m. and 9 a.m. That means all fireworks shot off inside the city limits should stop by 11 p.m. Wednesday, and police will be there to enforce the new rules.

July 16, 2012

An Upstate mother said she is grateful to be alive during her first press conference since being diagnosed with a flesh-eating bacterial infection two months ago. Lana Kuykendall, a paramedic, was with her husband Darren along with her doctors at Greenville Memorial Hospital on Monday morning. This was her first appearance since she was admitted May 11. She told a crowded room of reporters, hospital staff and fellow paramedics that, "I am just very grateful to be alive and I thank everyone who has been involved with that." One of her strongest supporters, Kuykendall's husband, has been by her side the entire time. "He was there every day and I know that made an impression on them and on me," said Kuykendall. "I always knew that he loved me but that's a lot to say that he was at my bedside every day." In May, days after giving birth to twins Ian and Abigail, Kuykendall was diagnosed with necrotizing fasciitis and underwent 20 surgical procedures and other treatments. Kuykendall has been at GHS's Roger C. Peace Rehabilitation Hospital since the end of June. Throughout her treatment and recovery, the couple's twins were cared for by friends and family. Since moving to the rehab hospital, Kuykendall has physical and occupational therapy twice a day and is on a regular diet. In June, her tracheotomy device was removed, and she began to communicate normally with family, friends and her medical team. When asked about how the infection all started, Kuykendall said Monday that it was sudden, and she got treatment right away. "I remembered the birth and I remembered coming home with them and I remembered going to the hospital because I thought I had a blood clot," said Kuykendall. "I don't remember much after that." Kuykendall said she sought help after noticing a strip on the back of her left thigh, which she thought was a clot, but it became clear fast that something more was going on. One of Kuykendall's doctors said Monday the progression of the infection was fast and aggressive. "These flesh eating bacteria grow so rapidly that you can actually see the skin change in front of your eyes," said Dr. Spence Taylor. "You can actually see the growth over time." Since May, more than 70 doctors and 250 nurses have helped in Kuykendall's recovery. The medical staff said they tried everything and anything they could to treat her as aggressively as possible, including operating on her 18 days straight. Taylor said after they stopped the infection, she received surgical skin grafts over approximately 25 percent of her total body surface prior to moving to the rehab hospital. While doctors have not said where or how Kuykendall got the infection, they said she could have gotten it from the smallest cut. Doctors said Kuykendall could be released from the rehab hospital as early as tomorrow but most likely sometime this week. She will receive at home care and then attend outpatient therapy as she continues to recover.

July 26, 2012

Some Asheville residents were without water Thursday morning after a main water line broke along Brevard Road. City officials said water service was interrupted on Brevard Road from Interstate 26 to Sardis Road. The break happened in front of the Ingles grocery store at 863 Brevard Rd. The affected area extended to the Ridgefield residential area, Wedgefield Drive, Wedgefield Place, Rocky Ridge and Pacoda Street. Several businesses, including Ingles, Toys R Us and surrounding hotels were affected, as was the Asheville Fire station on Rocky Ridge Road. Crews were working to repair the line by 5 p.m. The city's Citizen's Alert emergency messaging system was used to alert affected customers, and businesses were notified by a Water Resources representative. Surrounding areas may experience no water to low pressure during the interruption, and once crews finish the work, the affected area may experience discolored water or air in the lines. Customers were advised to wait until the water is clear before using it.

July 27, 2012

A Charleston County woman is the state's first case of West Nile virus infection, according to the state Department of Health and Environmental Control. State Epidemiologist Linda Bell said the woman's infection was found during a screening after she donated blood. "All donated blood is routinely screened for (West Nile virus) to ensure the safety of our blood supply," Bell said. Bell said that the virus is a disease of birds that is transmitted to humans and animals through the bite of an infected mosquito. She said that mosquitos become infected after feeding on infected birds. People who are infected with

West Nile become ill within two to 14 days, Bell said. She said symptoms can include fever, headache, joint pain, muscle pain, nausea, vomiting, sensitivity to light, inflammation of the eyelids and a rash. She said only 1 percent of people infected with the virus develop a fatal swelling of the brain. Bell said the woman who was infected with the virus is recovering.

July 31, 2012

Greenville Hospital System is investigating whether 11 patients who had neurological surgeries were potentially exposed to rare brain disorder. Officials with GHS said surgical instruments being used on a patient who was later diagnosed with the neurodegenerative disorder Creutzfeldt-Jacob disease did not undergo additional sterilization. Hospital officials said all instruments were sterilized according to rigorous U.S. protocols, but the CJD patient's diagnosis was not known at the time of the surgery and the Centers for Disease Control recommends that instruments that have come into contact with CJD undergo additional sterilization. The surgeries took place at Greenville Memorial Hospital in February. Creutzfeldt-Jacob disease affects about one person in every one million people per year worldwide and there is an extremely low risk of transmission, according to GHS. In the United States, there has never been a case of CJD transmission through surgical instruments. "This is a very unusual event," said Dr. Thomas Diller, GHS' vice president of quality and patient safety. "After a full assessment and discussion with the CDC, we believe the risk of transmission of Creutzfeldt Jacob disease to any patient is extremely small. We also value transparency and thus notified all patients who could be affected by this potential exposure." GHS has partnered with the CDC and the National Prion Center for its investigation.

August 22, 2012

A recent rash of problems with school buses in the Upstate was blamed on the aging fleet which is owned and maintained by the state. On Tuesday, a school bus carrying students to their first day of classes in Pickens County caught fire. The driver was able to safely evacuate the bus, preventing injuries to students. On Wednesday, officials in Greenville County said 14 busses had some type of mechanical issues, which resulted in some students arriving to their first day of classes a little late. J.W. Ragley, of the South Carolina Department of Education, said most of the problems are related to the increasing age of the state's nearly 5,200 busses. He said that two-thirds of the busses were purchased in 1984. He said about 2,000 of the busses were bought in 1995. Ragley said the state expects the vehicles to last for about 15 years before they are replaced, but \$12.35 million that was set aside to purchase new busses has not been approved by the state Budget and Control Board. He said the money would buy between 120 to 140 busses. The delay in purchasing new school busses is creating higher costs in parts, labor and fuel, Ragley said. Until budget controllers approve the money, the more than decade-old busses will have to suffice, Ragley said.

August 26, 2012

Pictures from inside a popular Charlotte mall show the extent of damage left behind when two sections of the mall's roof collapsed on Friday. Mall officials had said on Sunday, SouthPark Mall is expected to fully reopen on Tuesday after it was evacuated and "closed indefinitely" on Friday when a section of the roof collapsed, causing the mall to flood. Officials with Simon Properties, the company that owns and manages the mall, met with code enforcement officials Tuesday and agreed to hire professional engineers to stay on site and install an interim drainage plan. With that plan in place, the County Enforcement Office has given approval to open every store within 240 feet of the Gap and Banana Republic, where the majority of the damage occurred. The reopening begins with regular business hours on Wednesday. The mall had hoped to have all stores open for business on Tuesday. Safety officers, inspectors, and engineers from the Charlotte Fire Department worked through the weekend to inspect each store to make sure their fire alarms and sprinkler systems were working before stores could reopen. Charlotte Fire Department spokesman Captain Rob Brisley said that when the roof collapsed in two different sections during a storm on Friday evening, it brought down and damaged water pipes adding to the water that came gushing into the mall. The incident was reported at the SouthPark Mall on Friday evening, along the 4400 block of Sharon

Road, shortly after 5 p.m. Firefighters evacuated the mall after a section of the roof collapsed over the GAP store and another section over the Banana Republic store. Employees inside the mall told WBTV that it sounded like a shooting when the roof first buckled and collapsed and several people went screaming and running for the exits. "I was leaving work and we were walking down the corridor of the mall and we thought we heard gunshots," said JCrew employee Lauren Bollinger. Structural engineers were called to the mall by officials to determine how sound the structure is. "We're glad everyone is safe," said Charlotte Fire Chief Jon Hannan. Heavy downpours hammered the area around the mall in south Charlotte, as thunderstorms moved through the area. No injuries have been reported, according to the fire department. Employees working at the mall were sent home for the evening after the roof collapsed. According to the mall's Twitter account, several stores and restaurants reopened on Saturday. Those stores are Belk, Dillard's, Macy's, Neiman Marcus, Nordstrom, The Container Store, Dick's Sporting Goods & Village at SouthPark shops/restaurants. Maggiano's, The Cheesecake Factory, City Tavern and McCormick & Schmicks reopened on Saturday as well. Store managers and mall employees were alerted via Facebook on Saturday morning that they would not be able to get into their store, unless it was reopened, per the instructions from the Fire Marshal. During the height of the storm, motorists were advised to avoid the SouthPark area as many streets flooded. For a short time, several neighborhoods in the area were considered inaccessible. "We will absolutely try and minimize the impact as much as we can and be safe for our citizens," Hannan added

September 6, 2012

Police said a man accused of practicing medicine under someone else's name in the Midlands also treated patients illegally in Greenwood. Greenwood Police Capt. Nick Futch said they have arrest warrants for 48-year-old Ernest Osei Addo of Austell, GA, for unlawfully practicing medicine without a license. Addo was arrested on Sept. 4 in Lexington County on four counts of unlawfully practicing medicine without a license, financial identity fraud and obtaining signature or property under false pretense. Futch said between July 5 and July 10, 2011, Addo illegally practiced medicine at two locations in Greenwood, treating at least 70 patients. Addo allegedly assumed the name of a licensed medical doctor, using the information to gain temporary employment in Greenwood, according to Futch. He said Addo only practiced medicine on a limited basis. Addo is accused of working under someone else's name at a Greenwood nursing home, Magnolia Manor. According to Magnolia Manor Administrator Edith Goforth, Addo was placed by a reputable physician staffing company to temporarily cover while the attending physician was on vacation, and he cared for some of their residents in July 2011. "We believe that the residents and/or their families have been notified by the attending physician for whom Addo covered during that time period," said Goforth in a statement released to FOX Carolina. "We take the health, safety and well-being of our residents very seriously and will cooperate with the authorities to ensure that Mr. Addo is thoroughly investigated and prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law," Goforth said. "In the meantime, we have initiated an internal investigation into the matter." Addo is accused of practicing illegally at Greenwood Family Practice Inc., where they said he was sent to work there through a staffing agency as well. Dr. Jed Graham's attorney released a statement to FOX Carolina that said he is cooperating with state and federal authorities in the investigation against Addo. Addo presented himself as Dr. Arthur Kennedy via the staffing agency, according to Graham's office. Graham has individually reviewed the patient records of each visit conducted by Addo, and a letter has been sent to all of these patients, according to Graham's attorney. If any patients have questions or concerns, they are asked to call Greenwood Family Practice. Greenwood Family Practice's attorney said Staff Care, Inc. is the agency that provided Addo as a temporary physician. Greenwood is waiting to extradite Addo from Lexington County.

September 25, 2012

Some might say that tattoos are less taboo than ever, and a Harris poll that came out this year said one in five adults has at least one tattoo. But apparently the more often people get tattoos, the more often they're getting them removed. According to a skin care magazine called *The Patient Guide*, tattoo removal is up 32 percent over 2011. And it said the reason may come down to money. People need jobs, but employers don't always want to hire people covered in ink. Alicia Thiers knows tattoos because as a laser technician, she removes them every day. "I couldn't possibly think of something I'd want attached to my body, forever," said Thiers. "I feel really bad for the 18-year-olds that walk in like 'oh my gosh, I paid \$30 for this tattoo and it's going to cost me \$1,000 to take it off?'" Thiers said that laser removal is a lot cheaper than it used to be a few years ago. She also said that because more people have tattoos, more are getting them removed, especially the "visible

ones." "As far as the recruitment office for the military, I think they have me on speed dial," said Thiers. Thiers said many young people have come to her realizing their exposed tattoos may cause problems in their job search, especially in career fields that are more strict like the military and nursing programs. Eddie Payne is the spokesman for Robert Hall International, a professional staffing firm based in Greenville, and said depending on the job, tattoos may not be accepted. Payne said the best idea for a job interview is to dress conservatively, probably covering up a tattoo depending on its placement, before knowing how the work atmosphere will respond. "Do we see the president walking around with a tattoo?" said Payne. "If you want to have higher jobs, professional jobs, it's not really cool to be walking around with a tattoo on your neck." According to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, employers may have a dress code that prohibits tattoos - as long as that code is enforced across the board and does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, religion, national origin, gender or disability.

Attachments



Crime

**PROGRAMS ADDRESSING PROBLEM/NEED
THIRD QUARTER 2012**

Problem/Need: **CRIME**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PROGRAM</u>
Saturdays	8:00pm	COPS
Saturdays (airs weekly)	8:30pm	COPS
Monday – Friday	2:00pm	COPS

Description: COPS follows law enforcement officers as they answer calls and deal with the subjects and victims involved in the complaints and crimes. (30:00)

Saturdays	9:00pm	AMERICA'S MOST WANTED (Airs periodically as specials)
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Description: AMERICA'S MOST WANTED is hosted by John Walsh. The show profiles fugitives and wanted criminals who are being sought by federal, state, or local authorities. The program gives viewers a phone number to call to provide information. (60:00)

Monday – Sunday	10:00 pm	FOX CAROLINA'S MOST WANTED
Monday – Friday	5:00a-9:00am	

Description: The FOX Carolina's Most Wanted airs during the Ten O'clock News on various nights Monday thru Sunday and The Morning News Monday thru Friday. Each segment profiles locally wanted criminals and gives viewers a phone number to call to provide information. Each segment is 45 seconds.

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS AIRED:

- Wildfire Prevention
- Texting & Driving

July 4, 2012

It was the Fourth of July 13 years ago, in 1999, when Brooke Henson disappeared from her family, and they don't want people to stop looking for her. Travelers Rest police said they've been on this case from the beginning. They had many leads at first, but they never found her. In 2007, Henson's case was back in the public eye. America's Most Wanted unveiled that another woman, Esther Reed, stole Henson's identity. "The family's thinking, OK, we found her! She's alive!" said family friend Tammy Welch, of the that time, "but then once the picture of the girl was produced, it was not Brooke." Family and friends are not giving up. Welch said they're now offering a reward. She said an anonymous donor, who grew up in Traveler's Rest, put up \$5,000 and now family and friends are adding more. They hope to generate new leads that Travelers Rest police need to move this case forward.

July 16, 2012

Anderson County deputies said they are looking for two men who were involved in a home invasion last week that resulted in the death of their female accomplice. Deputies said that 17-year-old Emani Puckett was participating in a home invasion at 506 Burris St. the night of July 8. When deputies arrived at the home, they said they found the victim sitting near a gun and a girl lying on the ground with a bullet wound to the stomach. The man told deputies that the three people forced him and his girlfriend onto the floor. He said that he was hit in the head with a gun after the group forced their way inside. Deputies said that the man was held at gunpoint by the girl, while two men ransacked the home. They said that the man tackled the girl, and she was shot in the stomach during a struggle for the gun. On Monday, deputies said that they have identified 23-year-old Quentin "Que" Dean, of Anderson, as one of the men involved in the break-in. He was described as black, 6'2" tall and 180 pounds. Deputies released a sketch of the man who they say was the second person involved in the home invasion. That man was described as black with light skin tone, dreadlocks and acne. Anyone with information about the two men was asked to call Crime Stoppers at 888-CRIME-SC (888-274-6372).

July 18, 2012

An Upstate family said an Inman woman hit their relative while he was riding his moped, sending him to the hospital and her to jail. Now, there are orange marks spray painted on Goodjoin Road near the intersection of Honeysuckle and Watkins roads in Campobello. "You can see marks are on the road where his head was at," Gary Watson said. Gary Watson said his brother, David Watson, was riding his moped home on July 13, when he stopped and pulled onto the shoulder of the road. "It had been raining and he had problems with his moped," Gary Watson said. And just when David Watson hopped back on his moped, troopers said a driver hit him. "He's in pretty bad shape and we just ask for prayers for the family," Gary Watson said. "The moped landed 40 maybe 50 yards away from him." Troopers said Kathy Hall, 54, was the driver behind the wheel. Witnesses said she kept going then eventually came back. Investigators charged her with hit-and-run and felony DUI. She was later released from jail on a \$25,000 bond. "She's had some prior bad records of drinking and all. Maybe the justice system should show her a lesson," Gary Watson said. But for now, his focus is on his brother and his family. "It's just rough, it's hard," Gary Watson said. Their father died just days after the wreck. "He passed away due to the illness that he had plus the bad information that he got on his baby son," Gary Watson said. Investigators charged Hall back in 2011 with open container in a vehicle and public disorderly conduct. Family members told FOX Carolina as of Wednesday, July 18, David Watson was listed in critical condition.

July 23, 2012

The Georgia Supreme Court has stayed Monday's scheduled execution of a man convicted of killing a fellow prison inmate, turning aside his claim of mental disability in blocking the planned lethal injection on other grounds. Warren Lee Hill had faced a scheduled 7 p.m. execution. But the high court said it was unanimously staying the execution to consider his appeal challenging Georgia's recent switch to a single-drug execution method. In a subsequent non-unanimous statement, the court denied Hill's request they review defense arguments that Hill should be spared because he is mentally disabled. The state has previously said Hill's defense lawyers failed to conclusively show a mental disability. Federal law prohibits states from executing the mentally disabled. Hill was convicted in the Aug. 17, 1990, death of inmate Joseph Handspike.

July 25, 2012

A man has been arrested for refusing to leave the Rockingham County jail. The News & Record of Greensboro reported that 37-year-old Rodney Dwayne Valentine has been charged with trespassing. Valentine was released from the jail Saturday morning after being behind bars since May 22. The sheriff's office says he asked them to drive him to a local motel and they refused. Deputies charged Valentine with second-degree trespassing when he had refused to leave the jail by early Saturday afternoon. He's being held on \$500 bond and is scheduled to appear in court Aug. 9. It was not clear if he has a lawyer.

July 30, 2012

The identity of the man who deputies said was killed in a shooting in Waterloo on Saturday night was released Monday morning. Laurens County deputies said two neighbors got into an argument near Greenwood Lake. They said the argument escalated, and both men fired shots. Deputies said one of the men, identified by the Laurens County Coroner's Office as 32-year-old Jeremy Brown, was shot in the head and killed. They said the other man, whose identity was not immediately released, was not seriously injured. One man who witnessed the shooting said it was a case of self-defense. "He didn't have (a) choice," said Wayne Thompson. "The man was trying to kill him. He came into his yard, shooting into his house. When he opened the door, he threatened to kill him (and) said he was going to kill him." Deputies said their findings will be turned over to the Solicitor's Office to determine if charges should be filed.

August 3, 2012

Deputies said a Spartanburg man and his ex-wife are accused of sexually abusing a teenage girl, whom they said the man continued to abuse along with another girl and a dog. Spartanburg County deputies said they were notified June 18 of an alleged sexual assault of a young girl, and upon further investigation, the Sheriff's Office Special Victims Unit uncovered a history of sexual abuse and assaults dating back to 2003. The two suspects, James Dimsdale, 38, and Lisa Winkler, 29, were charged with sex crimes involving two female juveniles. Since 2003, deputies said Dimsdale and Winkler sexually abused one girl at least once, then Dimsdale continued to abuse the girl along with another girl. During part of the time, Winkler and Dimsdale were married, according to deputies. Deputies said Dimsdale videotaped some of the abuse and also filmed himself sexually assault a dog. Investigators said they found evidence that the girls were physically abused as well. Winkler was charged with criminal sexual conduct with a minor victim under 16 years old. Dimsdale was charged with two counts of criminal sexual conduct with a minor victim under 16 years old and arrested on June 20. Following further investigation, deputies added charges of first-degree criminal sexual conduct, buggery and eight counts of first-degree sexual exploitation of a minor. Dimsdale has been in jail since he was arrested in June, when he was denied bond. Winkler was arrested on Thursday and released on a \$20,000 bond.

August 8, 2012

The mother who deputies said was driving an SUV that crashed during a chase Monday morning, throwing her daughter from the vehicle, was officially charged Wednesday. The crash happened on Interstate 85 in Spartanburg County, near mile marker 81 on the northbound side, about 9:20 a.m. Spartanburg County Sheriff Chuck Wright said a deputy, who was working during Operation Rolling Thunder, was trying to stop the vehicle when the driver fled at speeds of more than 100 mph. Wright said the driver then had the 7-year-old girl unbuckle, open up a container full of marijuana and throw it out the window, just before. He said at least half a pound of marijuana was found scattered around the crash site. Wright said the deputy did not know a child was in the car, and was very shaken up by the incident. He said dash cam video showed that the deputy stayed far behind the vehicle and that he followed protocol. "We are the police," Wright said. "We chase bad guys. We are not at fault in this wreck. Had we known the child was in the car, we would've certainly done things differently." Wright said the driver made a bad choice to run with the child in the car and was most likely high on marijuana at the time. He said prayers were needed for the family and for the child. The driver of the vehicle, identified as 26-year-old Erika Shelton, suffered broken bones in the crash. Shelton's daughter, identified as Queniya Shelton, was taken to the hospital, where she later died. On Wednesday, Wright said Erika Shelton was charged with failure to stop for a blue light involving death, unlawful neglect of a child, possession with intent to distribute marijuana, driving under suspension, reckless driving and being a habitual traffic offender. He said investigators are determining whether there are more charges she could face. Trena Rice, Erika Shelton's mother and Queniya Shelton's grandmother, told FOX Carolina on Wednesday that deputy's should have stopped the chase. "They say my grand-baby was throwing stuff out (of) the car," Rice said. "If they can say that, (then) they knew she was in the car." Rice said Queniya Shelton lived with her and had big dreams. "She knew what she wanted out of life," Rice said. "She wanted to be a doctor or engineer." Rice said her granddaughter was a straight-A student at Hendricks Elementary School in Boiling Springs. She said it's difficult to wrap her mind around the fact her granddaughter won't be coming back home. No funeral arrangements have yet been made for Queniya Shelton. The sheriff said they will not change plans for Operation Rolling Thunder, which is a week-long traffic enforcement effort to make the highways in Spartanburg County safer. More information about the operation's efforts will be released Friday.

August 13, 2012

The death of a 10-month-old Calhoun Falls girl was ruled a homicide Monday, according to city police chief J.T. Galloway. Galloway said police were called to the child's home on Aug. 8, after the girl, Emily LaBounty, began having trouble breathing and started throwing up. He said the girl was first taken to a Greenwood hospital and then transferred to a Greenville hospital, where she was placed on life support. Abbeville County Coroner Ronnie Ashley said Emily was taken off life support Saturday morning, and was pronounced dead shortly thereafter. Galloway said police are still trying to determine what caused the girl's injuries, before deciding if any charges will be filed. Neighbors said Emily's mother is a good mother and there were two other people staying at the home.

August 20, 2012

An unknown man is believed to be behind seven bank robberies across the country, including in North Carolina and most recently in Bloomington, IL. The Federal Bureau of Investigation said they are working on putting up billboards in North Carolina after they said he robbed a Bank of America branch on Silas Creek Parkway in Winston-Salem. The FBI said the suspect enters the bank, approaches the teller and has been known to present a demand note. He also carries a black zippered portfolio, according to authorities. The unknown man has allegedly robbed the following banks in Arvada, CO; Flagstaff, AZ; Pocatello, ID; Roy, UT; Winston-Salem, NC; Chattanooga, TN; and Bloomington, IL, since June 21. He is described as a white male, 5'6" to 6'2" tall, thin build, 55 to 60 years old, gray hair, mustache, wears glasses, blue jeans and a blue polo or blue T-shirt. In Winston-Salem and in Bloomington, the suspect was seen in a black Chevy Captiva SUV with a silver rack on top. If anyone has information about these robberies, they are asked to call the Charlotte Division of the FBI at 704-672-6100 or Winston-Salem Crimestoppers at 336-727-2800.

August 23, 2012

A Henderson County couple reported missing Monday was found dead in Texas on Friday afternoon, according to deputies. Capt. Frank Stout, of the sheriff's office, said that Dr. Leslie Cargile, 53, and her husband, 58-year-old William Cargile Jr., left their Tuxedo home for a weekend trip and never returned. Stout said they were contacted by the staff at Leslie Cargile's practice in Black Mountain when she did not show up for work Monday morning. A check of the couple's home did not turn up anything suspicious, Stout said. He said nothing has been found that would lead deputies to believe foul play was involved in their disappearance. On Friday, deputies said that the couple left their home about noon on Saturday and arrived in Mobile, AL, at 8:19 p.m., where they checked into a hotel. They said the couple checked out the following morning and had not been seen since. Galveston police told FOX Carolina that the Cargiles' bodies were found in a motel room just before 2 p.m. Friday. Police did not immediately release how the couple died, but did say they did not suffer gunshot or stab wounds. An autopsy has been scheduled. An answering service for Leslie Cargile's practice said the office was closed indefinitely as of 5 p.m. Thursday. They tell us you can request your medical records in writing and it should include your full name, date of birth and location where you want them sent. You should send the request to: FamilyCare Home 3164 U.S. 70 Hwy. Black Mountain, NC 28711 Stay with FOX Carolina and foxcarolina.com for the latest on this developing story.

August 28, 2012

Police say bloodstains found in the trunk of a Columbia mother's car belong to her missing son. Officers discussed the evidence in the case against Zinah Jennings during a court hearing Monday. Jennings' son, Amir, was 18 months old when he was last seen at the end of 2011. His mother has been charged with lying to police about where her son is. Jennings is due to give birth to another child later this year. It's up to a judge now to decide if the blanket on which the blood was found can be used in Jennings' trial, set for late August. Jennings' attorney says the blanket could prejudice a jury against Jennings, who is charged with illegal conduct toward a child.

August 31, 2012

A Burger King manager is behind bars after police said he faked a robbery at work to get cash for his girlfriend's bond, but his wife saw the robbery and reported it as real. Travelers Rest police said on June 28 the manager of the State Park Road Burger King reported that as he was leaving work about 1:30 a.m. with the night deposit when he was robbed at gunpoint in the parking lot by two men. Then the alleged suspects took the deposit and fled on foot. There were three witnesses to the robbery, two employees and the manager's wife, police said. After further investigation and some tips, police said the manager, 36-year-old George Paul Runion, had staged the robbery with the help of two friends. At the time of the robbery, Runion's girlfriend was in jail and he did not have money to bond her out, according to police chief Lance Crowe. The men's plan was to split the deposit, which allegedly had about \$1,140 in cash, giving Runion enough of the money he needed to bond her out, Crowe said. But Runion's wife and the witnesses thought the robbery was real and they were in danger, police said. Runion and his accomplices, 22-year-old Zackery Ivey and 24-year-old John Watts, were arrested on Aug. 29. and each charged with armed robbery. They each had a bond set at \$25,000. Ivey was released on bond on Thursday and two of the

three men have confessed since their arrest, Crowe said. Crowe did not say what charge Runion's girlfriend was in jail on at the time of the alleged robbery.

September 3, 2012

The trial of a South Carolina mother charged in the case of her missing son continued Tuesday, four days after she gave birth to a daughter. Circuit Judge Knox McMahon on Tuesday rejected a request for a mistrial filed by Zinah Jennings' attorney. Jennings is charged with illegal neglect of a child regarding her missing son. She gave birth to a baby girl last Friday. McMahon said he would take more frequent breaks to give Jennings time to rest and recuperate from childbirth. The judge said he talked to Zinah's doctor and she was able to stand trial. He also told the courtroom they would break every 45 minutes so Zinah could have a rest. Once the trial resumed Tuesday, a Columbia Police investigator working the case testified about how Jennings didn't have much to say about the disappearance of her son. "Zinah, at that point was giving us vague information about Amir, that he was fine but that's pretty much about it," said investigator Colin Bailey. Bailey said he was called to investigate what happened to little Amir in late December 2011. He said through research, he discovered no one had seen Amir since November 29th when bank surveillance showed him with his mom. To prove his point, he showed video after video of Zinah using her EBT card over the following weeks. Amir was not with her. "That is the last sighting of Amir Jennings on video or any sighting from family or friends," testified Bailey. Bailey said Zinah eventually gave him what he thought was a lead -- a written statement. "She wrote, 'Amir is with his father Earnest Robinson. I dropped him off on December 6th, 2011, he is safe and happy,'" Bailey testified. But he said Earnest Robinson is not Amir's father and Amir is still missing. With special permission, Zinah's own mother sat at her side as the testimony continued. She has said over the past months that she thinks that Amir is out there and he's ok. A high school friend testified last week that Jennings told her she was stressed by parenting and considered selling or giving away the boy.

September 10, 2012

Deputies are looking for information after a man was found suffering from a gunshot wound to the head at his Piedmont home Monday morning. Anderson County deputies were called to a home on Smith Drive near Osteen Hill Road about 9:30 a.m. The victim was taken to Greenville Memorial Hospital where he died a little before midnight, according to Anderson County deputy coroner Don McCown. McCown identified the victim as Timothy Ramsey, 25. There is no word on any suspects at this time. Deputies said they are not yet sure of the circumstances that led to the shooting. Chad McBride with the Anderson County Sheriff's Office said it was a drive-by shooting. Initial reports from deputies said the victim was found inside his home.

September 11, 2012

Georgetown County sheriff's deputies say a Murrells Inlet woman is in jail after leading them on a high speed chase and then getting out of her car drinking from a bottle of tequila. Deputies say 40-year-old Sandra D. Cook was charged with driving under suspension, driving under the influence, failure to stop for a blue light, reckless driving and having an open container of alcohol on Monday. Authorities say a deputy tried to pull over a woman in Pawleys Island for driving 88 miles per hour in a 45 zone. She drove off, leading deputies on a chase to Georgetown and then back to Pawleys. Authorities say at the end of the chase the woman got out of the car drinking tequila. It could not immediately be determined if Cook had an attorney.

September 17, 2012

A standoff at a Greer home prompted by a man's suicide threat peacefully ended Monday evening. Greer police Lt. Jim Holcombe said they were called to a home on Ripton Court in the Shelburne Farms community just before 7 p.m. after the man conveyed to his brother that he wanted to hurt himself. Holcombe said investigators believed there were weapons in the home, and negotiators made contact with the man. Police said that about 8:30 p.m. the man walked out of the home and surrendered to police, Holcombe said. He said no shots were fired during the standoff. The man was taken to a local hospital for treatment, Holcombe said.

Attachments



Education

**PROGRAMS ADDRESSING PROBLEM/NEED
THIRD QUARTER 2012**

Problem/Need: **EDUCATION**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PROGRAM</u>
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PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS AIRED:

- Dropout Prevention
- Literacy
- Mental Health Association
- GED, College Access

July 13, 2012

An Upstate High School student is getting national attention for trying to stop bullying with a children's book and a public service announcement. *STOMP OUT the Bullying!* was written by J.L. Mann High School Senior Angel McGowan, who said she has never been a victim of bullying but has seen others affected by it. "I have close friends who have dealt with it and it hurt me to see them feeling the way they did," she said. It led McGowan to something to make others aware of the dangers of bullying. She entered into a national competition called the Great American No Bull Challenge to produce an anti-bullying PSA and write a children's book. "My main character gets bullied at school and worried about it. He did this until he realized he could trust his math teacher," she said. Her parents said the competition attracted hundreds of applicants, but only 15 including McGowan made the cut. Last year, federal statistics showed that 20 percent of high school students experienced bullying. But McGowan hopes it stops with her new book and PSA. McGowan's next step will be to attend an awards ceremony in San Francisco next month where some of the judges will be Dr. OZ and his wife. You can also call her booking agent to have her speak at your summer camp. The number to call is 864-238-4764

July 15, 2012

Beginning this fall, it will cost students more to attend Clemson University after the board of trustees approved a tuition and fee hike. During Wednesday's meeting the board held an executive session where it approved an in-state tuition hike of 3 percent. The vote was approved 9 to 2. The board also approved a 4 percent increase in out-of-state tuition and a 3.9 percent increase in room and board fees. The increases will go into effect with the 2012-2013 school year and will generate \$8.7 million in revenue for the university. "We've made a commitment to students and families," said Clemson President James F. Barker. "We will continue to improve the quality of a Clemson education while maintaining access. That means keeping tuition and fee increases as low as possible. Our commitment is to add value to the educational experience and directly benefit students in accordance with our 2020 Road Map." The road map is Clemson's 10-year strategic plan. University officials said the increases will offset inflation and generate revenue for student engagement opportunities, critical faculty investments, facility improvements, deferred maintenance and technology updates. The hikes add \$185 per semester for in-state students and \$569 per semester for non-residents. Graduate student tuition will remain unchanged for the coming year. The increased room and board fees will vary depending on students' dining plan choice and where they live on campus. The board said revenue from the increased housing fees will fund delayed maintenance projects and housing facility improvements. Revenue from increased dining plan fees will fund inflationary costs of food and delayed maintenance/improvement projects for dining halls. Student housing and dining services are auxiliary enterprises, which by state law must be self-supporting, according to university officials. "Because of the generosity of the state's scholarship program and the success of our capital campaign, on average, in-state students pay far less than the sticker price," said Brett

Dalton, vice president for finance and operations. "In-state freshman, on average, pay about 31 percent of the published price, while the overall average for all in-state students is about 50 percent of the sticker price." In 2011, the board approved a similar tuition increase of nearly 4 percent.

July 16, 2012

A Clemson University dean has been selected as the next president of Presbyterian College. Presbyterian's board of trustees on Friday picked Dr. Claude C. Lilly as the next person to lead the Clinton school. Lilly is currently dean of Clemson's College of Business and Behavioral Science. He has nearly four decades of teaching and administrative experience at schools including Clemson, the University of South California and Florida State University. He has been dean at Clemson since 2007 and helped relocate some of the school's business programs to downtown Greenville. Lilly takes over for current Presbyterian president John Griffith on July 15. Along with wife Fran, the couple has four children and seven grandchildren.

July 27, 2012

South Carolina's Eric Hyman has left after seven years to guide Texas A&M's transition into the Southeastern Conference as the Aggies new athletic director. The 61-year-old Hyman said in a statement Friday he looked forward to leading his new school in its transition from the Big 12 Conference into the SEC. Hyman will take over for Texas A&M's Bill Byrne, who retired in May. Texas A&M is officially joining the SEC on Sunday. During his tenure at South Carolina, the Gamecocks enjoyed an unprecedented level of athletic success. The baseball team under coach Ray Tanner won two national titles and played for a third before falling to Arizona at the College World Series earlier this month. The football team won a program-record 11 games last fall.

August 14, 2012

State schools Superintendent Mick Zais says a waiver from key provisions of the No Child Left Behind law provides a once-in-a-generation opportunity to transform education in South Carolina. The U.S. Education Department announced Thursday that it has approved waiver applications from South Carolina and five other states, plus the District of Columbia. The 32 states now granted waivers are exempt from the law's requirements that all students must score proficient in math and reading by 2014. South Carolina's waiver includes replacing the federal law's all-or-nothing accountability system for schools with one that awards letter grades for performance and gives credit for progress. Zais says that flexibility creates a more understandable rating system. Other changes include evaluating teachers based on student performance and other measures by the 2014-15 school year.

August 17, 2012

The Greenville County School District will hold two job fairs in June to recruit employees. The district is looking for bus drivers, bus aides, food service operators and custodians for the 2011-2012 school year. The district told FOX Carolina that 100 - 120 jobs are available. The first job fair will be held on Thursday from 8 a.m. to noon at Wade Hampton High School at 100 Pine Knoll Drive in Greenville. The second job fair will be held on June 14 from 8 a.m. to noon at Mauldin High School at 701 E. Butler Road in Mauldin.

August 28, 2012

The University of South Carolina is opening a new medical school campus in Greenville with a charter class of 53 students. University spokesman Wes Hickman says a ceremony is scheduled for Tuesday. The school is a partnership between USC and the Greenville Hospital System and becomes one of 136 in the nation. Hickman says a hallmark of the school is a curriculum designed to educate physicians knowledgeable about America's rapidly evolving health care delivery system. The school is only one of two in the nation that requires students to complete emergency medical technician training and is only one of a few to be located on the campus of a public health system.

September 4, 2012

Irish actor Colin Farrell can be seen on the big screen this summer in *Total Recall*, but he's also hitting some local computer screens this week. The Hollywood movie star has given a YouTube shout-out to some high school students in the Upstate. "Hello Eastside High. I am recording this message to tell you all how grateful I am that you've chosen FAST," said celebrity Colin Farrell in the video. He singled out Eastside High school in Taylors for choosing The Foundation for Angelman Syndrome Therapeutics as their Spirit Week charity for 2012. Students will host fundraising activities for a full week in September for the cause. FAST Representative Paula Evans said Farrell recorded the message during some downtime he had on the set of a film. Farrell has a child that has been diagnosed with Angelman Syndrome, and he believes the school's fundraising help could lead them to a cure. Angelman Syndrome is rare neuro-genetic disorder that causes developmental delays, speech issues and seizures. Right now, anyone diagnosed with AS requires lifelong care but researchers are working for a cure. For that reason, FAST said Eastside High School's donation will make a big difference. In the past, the school has raised almost \$230,000 in just one Spirit Week. "If we can raise a good amount of funds, their families are changed," said student government member Molly Wike. "It will be very personal for them." After the special message from Farrell, students said the sky is the limit for what they should be able to achieve this September. "Just to see that someone as big as Colin Farrell would do that for us, who knows what we could do in the future," said student government member Addie Patterson Wilson.

September 10, 2012

There are lots of things students and their parents need to get in order before school begins this month, and Upstate doctors want people to also realize the importance of health before classes start. Brandy Dickson, a nurse practitioner with the Minute Clinic at the CVS on Pelham Road in Greenville, said there are lots of healthy things kids can do before school starts. "Remember that South Carolina have changed their rules," Dickson says. "Students heading into the seventh grade are required to get the TDAP booster shot before the first day." The TDAP vaccine protects people from several diseases including tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis, commonly known as whooping cough. Dickson also said students should never share water bottles with classmates to stop the spread of disease or illness. Students who plan to play sports should get a physical, Dickson said. She said they should also wear plenty of waterproof sunscreen when outdoors.

September 18, 2012

Who knew shopping for last minute school supplies could be so fun? Monday night the Target in Anderson stayed open late just for Clemson freshmen to shop and party until 12:30 a.m. They enjoyed discounts, games and giveaways while doing the Cupid Shuffle and many other line dances. It was all to celebrate a successful school year ahead. The fun started earlier Monday evening in Downtown Clemson with the Welcome Back Festival. There were games, giveaways and entertainment. Students said they were looking forward to the school year. "It's a really good way to get all the students out and get together for welcoming back to school," said Blake Smoral, an incoming freshman. The festival benefits the Student Alumni Council Endowment Scholarship Fund.

September 21, 2012

The School District of Pickens County wants the public's help naming a new middle school. The new school will be located on the site of the old Easley High School on Pendleton Street. The school district is asking for name submissions by Oct. 19 and prefer ideas that recognize geographical areas and not a person. Submissions must include the suggested school name, rationale behind the name, along with entrants' name, address, phone number and or email address. Name suggestions are to be sent to nameourschool@pickens.k12.sc.us or mailed to SDPC Communication Services, 1348 Griffin Mill Road, Easley, SC 29640. A naming committee from the Easley area will narrow down the suggestions to three choices that the board of trustees will have the final say on. Name submission forms started going home with students in the Easley area Thursday.

September 26, 2012

Officials announced changes Wednesday aimed at preventing a similar traffic headache like the one that happened during the first Easley High School football game last week. Dozens of drivers headed to last Friday's Daniel vs. Easley game, were stuck in traffic for nearly two hours. Some people who were in the traffic jam vented their frustrations on social media. Others called the FOX Carolina newsroom to complain. On Wednesday, officials said they are implementing changes for the next home game Sept. 7 that hopefully will alleviate the congestion. First, all entrances to the new Easley High School campus will be open to arriving fans. Last week, only two entrances were open to arrivals, while all three were used as exits. Second, the \$2 fee charged for parking on campus will not be charged. Officials said that they do not believe the collection of the fee caused the delay, but they have decided to forgo the fee as the traffic pattern is studied. Finally, officials said the fan bases for next Friday's Wren vs. Easley game should be approaching the stadium from opposite directions. They said this fact should help keep traffic flowing.

Attachments



Environment

**PROGRAMS ADDRESSING PROBLEM/NEED
THIRD QUARTER 2012**

Problem/Need: **ENVIRONMENT**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PROGRAM</u>
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PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS AIRED:

- Arbor Day Foundation
- Discovering Nature
- World Wildlife Fund

July 22, 2012

Authorities are investigating the cause of a building's collapse that killed a man in Canton, NC. The collapse happened Saturday about 9 p.m. along Mingus Hill Road. Police said the man was working inside a storage shed when it fell in on itself, crushing him. Police said the body of a man was found among the debris from the collapse, and it took three hours of planning to recover him. No one else was injured. The victim's identity has not yet been released. Police said the building was owned by a wholesale fishing bait business. Police said the structure collapse is believed to be accidental and is under investigation.

July 23, 2012

A cold front is passing through the western Carolinas, and it will bring some VERY pleasant weather (by late June standards) for Tuesday and Wednesday! Highs will be below normal, and humidity should be fairly low. But, a strong high pressure to our west will nudge out the pleasant feeling Canadian high by Thursday. This will bring a big surge in heat! In fact, we could flirt with records on Friday and Saturday! I'm forecasting 99 for both days, while the records are 101 and 100 for Friday and Saturday respectively. This heat will stick around through early next week. Isolated storms will have the potential of cooling down some spots Saturday-Monday. Now for Debby. It's meandering around the eastern gulf, just off the west coast of Florida. Heavy rain has caused flooding from Panama City to Tampa, and it's just going to get worse. The storm is a slow mover, because it doesn't have any atmospheric players to help push it along to the east. It will move across Florida by early weekend, then move along the east coast early next week (if model projections hold). There will be some dangerous rip currents for those heading to the Carolina and Georgia beaches for July 4th week most likely.

July 25, 2012

With temperatures expected to top out near 100 degrees Thursday, forecasters warn of near-record heat for the western Carolinas and northeast Georgia. The National Weather Service issued a heat advisory from noon to 7 p.m. Thursday for Abbeville, Greenwood, Laurens and Union counties in South Carolina, and for Elbert County in Georgia. FOX Carolina Chief Meteorologist Kendra Kent said high temperatures will climb into the upper 90s in the Upstate. She said that with the high humidity expected, the heat index, or how the temperatures feels, will be closer to 110 degrees. Kent forecast a high temperature of 98 degrees for Greenville, a degree shy of the record high that has been hit three times in recorded history on July 26 - in 2010, 1995 and 1987. In Asheville, Kent forecast a high of 91, which would be three degrees shy of the record hit twice - in 1949 and 1940. Experts recommend people stay indoors as much as possible during the extreme heat. They said people who are required to be outside should take frequent breaks in an air-conditioned area, drink plenty of non-alcoholic, non-caffeinated beverages and wear light-weight, light-colored clothing. There is only a slight chance of storms for

Thursday, Kent said. Kent said a cold front will move into the area by Friday, providing a better chance for storms and slightly cooler air for the weekend.


August 10, 2012

Crews are working through the weekend to clean up mold found at a Pickens County school, officials said Friday. Officials said the mold was found throughout the first floor of the S Building at Gettys Middle School. They said the problem is far less severe than the mold that affected both Easley High School and R.C. Edwards Middle School two years ago. An air quality test is scheduled for 7 a.m. Monday, officials said. Teachers are scheduled to report to the school Tuesday to begin preparing for the upcoming school year. School begins in Pickens County on Aug. 21.


August 17, 2012

Officials said a tanker truck carrying up to 8,800 gallons of gasoline overturned and was leaking fuel. The crash happened about 10 p.m. Friday on Murphy Road, near Highway 247 in Belton. Firefighters were on the scene and working to clean up the mess. About 20 homes along Murphy, New Hope and Tony Creek roads were evacuated. Anyone living in the area was asked to head to shelters at Shady Grove Baptist Church or New Hope Baptist Church. Firefighters said the biggest danger was the threat of fire.

September 10, 2012

September Off to a Great Start: It's tough to put into words just how good September has been to us so far. The month started with a couple of days in the low 90s, but since then we have enjoyed daily maximum temperatures in the 70s and 80s with MANY hours of most days spent in the 60s and 70s. I know *we spend a lot of time talking about "highs" and "lows" on daily weather casts, but the meat (or good portion) of most days have been 70s here lately.* Of course, there's still some time for summer to put together a couple of solid runs in the 86°-92° range, so we won't get too optimistic about consistent fall-like temperatures just yet. However, the days are shortening and the clock is ticking on the number of days where heat and humidity will be a focus at all. Consistent Summer Heat for Midwest... Not for Carolinas: You'll notice that the graphic posted on the right hand side of the page illustrates how this summer's temperatures stacked up to what we normally see around here compared to other parts of the country. There were some scorching days, but there were also some cool  stretches. Once every day was factored in, June through August was near normal for much of our area and just a tick or so above normal for most of our Western North Carolina residents. The Midwest certainly felt consistent heat, yet *the Carolinas only felt consistent high humidity. As usual, it's the high humidity that gives the false perception of high heat.* Furthermore, the map on the right shows many areas to our south and southwest ended up below normal for the period June through August. One thing I will point out is that there's ALWAYS a decent chance there will be record heat somewhere. That place or those places experiencing record heat will likely garner many of the headlines leaving the cooler areas (such as south Georgia) ignored.

September 17, 2012

Gas prices in the Greenville area rose less than one cent from last week, GasBuddy.com reported Monday. The price-tracking website reported that Greenville drivers were paying an average of \$3.34 per gallon - 36 cents below the national average of \$3.70. Locally, the price was 28.4 cents higher than a month ago and 3.9 cents higher than a year ago. Nationally, the price was 21.9 cents higher than last month and 11.8 cents higher than last year. Experts said the slowing upward pace of gas prices should continue. "As the West Coast and Great Lakes see refining issues in the rear view mirror, as well as the end of the summer driving season approaching, we may see a new downward pattern develop which could see average prices falling - especially after mid-September, a pattern that could dominate the gas pump until the holiday season," said GasBuddy.com Senior Petroleum Analyst Patrick DeHaan. AAA reported the average cost for a gallon of gas  was at \$3.43 in South Carolina, \$3.68 in North Carolina and \$3.64 in Georgia.

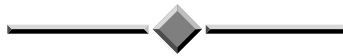
September 24, 2012

Counties along the Savannah River remain seriously dry, despite summer rains that improved drought conditions elsewhere in the state. *The State* newspaper of Columbia reports Sunday that the three major lakes along the Savannah River basin remain well below their long-term average levels for late September. Jocassee Lake is the lowest at 14 feet below average. The official drought status is severe for five counties. Nine counties in the state's northwestern portion are in moderate drought. The rest is in incipient drought, which is less severe. The state Drought Response Committee meets Thursday. It likely will decide to improve or remove drought designations for much of the state. But conditions in the Savannah River basin did not improve over the summer. Winter rainfall will be crucial. As of July 19, Abbeville was the only Upstate county still considered in a severe drought status. Oconee, Pickens, Greenville, Anderson, Greenwood, Laurens and Newberry counties were under moderate drought status.

September 26, 2012

Some South Carolinians are getting into shape when it comes to hunting alligators. Most of us know people who hunt deer or dove, but do you know anyone who's gone after a gator? Alligator season is only weeks away, and the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources is offering classes to get you ready. DNR officers teach the class so hunters will know the laws, the type of equipment to use, where to look for gators and, most importantly, safety and what to do after you catch a gator. They also tell you how you go about applying for your license that will let you hunt gator for about a month from mid-September to mid-October. DNR officers told FOX Carolina alligators normally turn up in the midlands and low country, but on occasion make their way to the Upstate. The final class in the state will be taught this Saturday at McAlister Square in Greenville beginning at 10 a.m. It's expected to last two hours and participants will get to sample some alligator meat. South Carolina's alligator hunting season begins on Sept. 8 and lasts until Oct. 13. and permits are required.

Attachments



Government

**PROGRAMS ADDRESSING PROBLEM OR NEED
THIRD QUARTER 2012**

Problem/Need: **GOVERNMENT**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PROGRAM</u>
Sundays	10:00 am	FOX NEWS SUNDAY

Description:

Fox News Sunday is a national weekly program with current events and political issues. (60:00)

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS AIRED:

- Ready.gov (disaster preparation)
- SC National Guard, Coast Guard

July 6, 2012

Gov. Nathan Deal has frozen Georgia's gas tax, preventing an increase that would have kicked in July 1. Deal signed an executive order freezing the gas tax at current levels, saving motorists nearly one cent from the next six months. Deal signed the order Friday. The state gas tax had been set to rise .8 cents on July 1, as a result of a formula tied to fuel prices. Deal said the state's economy has slowly improved with growing revenue and the unemployment rate decreasing. Deal said taxpayers in the state should not have to take on the "burden" of a gas tax right now. Every six months, the Department of Revenue analyzes the previous half year's gas price and adjusts the state tax either up or down.

July 17, 2012

Legislators are returning to Columbia for a special session to try to finish their work. The main issues left incomplete when the regular session ended June 7 are the budget, pension reform and government restructuring. Conference committees of House and Senate members made little progress in the interim on reaching compromises on the chambers' differing plans. If legislators don't pass a budget this week, they run the risk of starting the fiscal year July 1 without one. State law allows the governor five days, excluding Sunday, to issue any vetoes. This week's special session will cost taxpayers about \$71,000 if legislators stay their normal three days. Mileage reimbursements and the \$131 a day each receives for expenses tallies \$50,000 for the House and \$21,000 for senators.

July 30, 2012

Mitt Romney told Jewish donors Monday that their culture is part of what has allowed them to be more economically successful than the Palestinians, outraging Palestinian leaders who suggested his comments were racist and out of touch with the realities of the Middle East. His campaign later said his remarks were mischaracterized. "As you come here and you see the GDP per capita, for instance, in Israel which is about \$\$21,000, and compare that with the GDP per capita just across the areas managed by the Palestinian Authority, which is more like \$10,000 per capita, you notice such a dramatically stark difference in economic vitality," the Republican presidential candidate told about 40 wealthy donors who ate breakfast at the luxurious King David Hotel. Romney said some economic histories have theorized that "culture makes all the difference." "And as I come here and I look out over this city and consider the accomplishments of the people of this nation, I recognize the power of at least culture and a few other things," Romney said, citing an innovative business climate, the Jewish history of thriving in difficult circumstances and the "hand of providence." He said similar disparity exists between neighboring countries, like Mexico and the United States. Palestinian reaction to Romney was swift and pointed. "It is a racist statement

and this man doesn't realize that the Palestinian economy cannot reach its potential because there is an Israeli occupation," said Saeb Erekat, a senior aide to Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas. "It seems to me this man lacks information, knowledge, vision and understanding of this region and its people," Erekat added. "He also lacks knowledge about the Israelis themselves. I have not heard any Israeli official speak about cultural superiority." As criticism mounted while Romney traveled to Poland, campaign spokeswoman Andrea Saul said: "His comments were grossly mischaracterized." The Republican's campaign contends Romney's comparison of countries that are close to each other and have wide income disparities - the U.S. and Mexico, Chile and Ecuador - shows his comments were broader than just the comparison between Israel and Palestine. While speaking to U.S. audiences, Romney often highlights culture as a key to economic success and emphasizes the power of the American entrepreneurial spirit compared to the values of other countries. But his decision to highlight cultural differences in a region where such differences have helped fuel violence for generations raises new questions about the former businessman's diplomacy skills. As he has at home, Romney in Jerusalem cited a book titled, "Guns, Germs and Steel," that suggests the physical characteristics of the land account for the differences in the success of the people that live there. "And you look at Israel and you say you have a hard time suggesting that all of the natural resources on the land could account for all the accomplishment of the people here," Romney said, before citing another book, "The Wealth and Poverty of Nations," by former Harvard professor David Landes. This book, Romney said in Jerusalem, concludes that "if you could learn anything from the economic history of the world it's this: Culture makes all the difference. Culture makes all the difference." The economic disparity between the Israelis and the Palestinians is actually much greater than Romney stated. Israel had a per capita gross domestic product of about \$31,000 in 2011, while the West Bank and Gaza had a per capita GDP of just over \$1,500, according to the World Bank. Romney, seated next to billionaire casino owner Sheldon Adelson at the head of the table, told donors that he had read books and relied on his own business experience to understand why the difference is so great. His comparison of the two economies did not take into account the stifling effect the Israeli occupation has had on the Palestinian economy in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and east Jerusalem - areas Israel captured in 1967 where the Palestinians hope to establish a state. In the West Bank, Palestinians have only limited self-rule. Israel controls all border crossings in and out of the territory, and continues to restrict Palestinian trade and movement. Israel annexed east Jerusalem in 1967, but has invested much less heavily there than in Jewish west Jerusalem. And although Israel withdrew from the Gaza Strip in 2005, it continues to control access and has enforced a crippling border blockade since the Islamic militant Hamas seized the territory in 2007. It's true that Israel has logged tremendous achievements, said Abraham Diskin, a political science professor at the Inter-Disciplinary Center outside of Tel Aviv. But "you can understand this remark in several ways," he added. "You can say it's anti-Semitic. 'Jews and money.'" The World Bank and the International Monetary Fund repeatedly have said that the Palestinian economy can only grow if Israel lifts those restrictions. "It's Israeli occupiers and Palestinians under occupation, and that's why Palestinians cannot realize their potential," Erekat said. The breakfast with top donors - including Adelson, New York Jets owner Woody Johnson and hedge fund manager Paul Singer - concluded Romney's visit to Israel, the second leg of a three-nation overseas tour designed to bolster his foreign policy credentials. Standing on Israeli soil for the first time as the GOP's presumptive presidential nominee, Romney on Sunday declared Jerusalem to be the capital of Israel and said the U.S. has promised never to "look away from our passion and commitment to Israel." The status of Jerusalem is a critical issue in peace talks between the Israelis and the Palestinians. In Israel, Romney did not meet with Abbas or visit the West Bank. He met briefly with Palestinian Prime Minister Salam Fayyad. Romney's campaign says the trip, which began in England last week, is aimed at improving the former Massachusetts governor's foreign policy experience through a series of meetings with foreign leaders. The candidate has largely avoided direct criticism of U.S. President Barack Obama while on foreign soil. The Jerusalem fundraiser, however, was a political event that raised more than \$1 million for Romney's campaign. It marks at least the second finance event during his tour. The first, in London, attracted about 250 people to a \$2,500-per-person fundraiser. Both presidential candidates have aggressively courted American donors living abroad, a practice that is legal and has been used for decades. Romney's declaration that Jerusalem is Israel's capital was in keeping with claims made by Israeli governments for decades, even though the United States, like other nations, maintains its embassy in Tel Aviv. His remarks on the subject during a speech drew a standing ovation from the audience, which included Adelson, the American businessman who has promised to donate more than \$100 million to help defeat Obama. Adelson was among a several donors who flew to Israel for a day of sightseeing with Romney in addition to private meetings with top Israeli officials. Romney flew to the Middle East from Britain, where he caused a stir by questioning whether officials there were fully prepared for the Olympic Games. A stop in Poland will complete his trip. Four years ago, Obama visited Israel as a presidential candidate, part of a five-nation trip meant to establish his own foreign policy credentials. A goal of Romney's overseas trip is to demonstrate his confidence on the world stage, but the stop in Israel also was designed to appeal to evangelical voters at home and cut into Obama's support among Jewish voters and donors. A Gallup survey of Jewish voters released Friday showed Obama with a 68-25 edge over Romney. Romney and other

Republicans have said Obama is insufficiently supportive of Israel. Associated Press writers Amy Teibel in Jerusalem and Steve Peoples in Washington contributed to this report.

August 6, 2012

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley is among the speakers scheduled to address attendees of the Republican National Convention later this month. The convention, set for Aug. 27 through Aug. 30 in Tampa, FL, is where the Republican Party selects its candidate for the upcoming general election. Other speakers on the list include former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee, Ohio Gov. John Kasich, New Mexico Gov. Susana Martinez, former Republican presidential candidate and Arizona Sen. John McCain, former U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Florida Gov. Rick Scott. In a statement on the convention's website Monday, Haley said she looks forward to being part of the historic event. The convention did not release who will give the keynote address. The Democratic National Convention will be held in Charlotte, NC, Sept. 4 through Sept. 6.

August 9, 2012

The South Carolina Election Commission has certified its first petition candidate for the November ballots. Commission spokesman Chris Whitmire says House candidate Raye Felder will receive written notification Thursday that her petition is valid. Felder was among nearly 250 candidates statewide tossed off primary ballots following a May ruling by the state Supreme Court on improperly filed paperwork. Felder was seeking the Republican nomination for a newly drawn House seat representing Fort Mill. The court decision left no major-party candidate seeking the seat. An unprecedented number of petition candidates are expected in November. Thirteen other potential candidates for legislative offices have turned in their petitions. The deadline is noon Monday. Felder submitted hers on June 28. The agency must complete the signature verification process by noon Aug. 15.

August 13, 2012

Dozens of would-be legislative candidates who want to be on November ballots face a deadline for turning in their petitions. Potential petition candidates must turn in their signatures by noon Monday. An unprecedented number of people are trying to get on the ballot as a petition candidate after being booted from primary ballots. A state Supreme Court decision in May on improperly filed paperwork caused about 250 candidates statewide to be removed from the June 12 primaries. Becoming a petition candidate requires getting signatures from at least 5 percent of a district's registered voters. Nearly two dozen candidates had already turned in their petitions by Monday. The state Election Commission certified the first petition candidate last Thursday, validating the signatures collected by House candidate Raye Felder of Fort Mill.

August 17, 2012

Read more responses from South Carolina and Upstate lawmakers in response to the Supreme Court's decision on the Affordable Care Act. **Senator Lindsey Graham, R-SC:** "To our Democratic colleagues, stand by your tax increase or stand with us to Repeal and Replace Obamacare. "During the entire congressional debate over Obamacare, Democrats vehemently denied this was a tax on the American people. The Obama Administration also denied it was a tax. However, when the case went to Court, they argued, for constitutional purposes, it was a tax. "I have always believed the individual mandate would not be upheld under the Commerce Clause because you cannot compel someone to enter into commerce. However, I have always been afraid the broad power to tax could be used by the Court to justify Obamacare. "The problem for the American people is this is a massive tax increase at a time they can least afford it and Obamacare will jeopardize the quality and accessibility of health care. "Now Congress has a chance to Repeal and Replace Obamacare, one of the largest tax increases on the American people, with common-sense health care reform we can afford. I am glad I voted against one of the largest tax increases on the American people in modern history for the purpose of creating government-controlled health care. "The question for Congress is -- Did you intend to tax the American people by hundreds of billions of dollars to create a government-controlled health care system or not? "I am urging the Republican leadership to immediately insist on debating whether or not Obamacare is in fact a tax in the eyes of the politicians who proposed the legislation. If it was never meant to be a tax, they should immediately Repeal and Replace this bill." **Senator Jim DeMint, R-SC:** "The Supreme Court may have failed to stop this government takeover of health care, but the American people will not. Since the day this law was rammed through Congress, the American people have demanded repeal, and today's ruling doesn't make Obamacare any less dangerous to our nation's health. Freedom-loving Americans are disappointed, but we cannot be discouraged. "The President's health care law must be fully repealed as all of its promises have proven false. We were told it was not a tax hike,

but this ruling confirms it is an unprecedented and enormous tax on the poor and middle class Americans. President Obama needs to explain why he is enacting this middle class tax hike over the objections of the American people during the worst economic recovery since the Great Depression. "We were told it would lower health costs, but health care premiums are exploding. We were told that Americans could keep their personal health plans, but millions will now lose it. We were told it would improve our economy, but it is now the largest obstacle to employers hiring new workers. "This government takeover of health care remains as destructive, unsustainable, and unconstitutional as it was the day it was passed, unread, by a since-fired congressional majority. Now as then, our first step toward real health care reform and economic renewal remains Obamacare's full repeal, down to the last letter and punctuation mark. "I urge every governor to stop implementing the health care exchanges that would help implement the harmful effects of this misguided law. Americans have loudly rejected this federal takeover of health care, and governors should join with the people and reject its implementation." "The President's health care law will not reform anything, but is already undermining what does still work in America's health care system. We cannot build a free market health care system on this flawed structure of centralized government control, we must repeal all of it and start over with commonsense solutions that make health care more affordable and accessible for every American. We can allow Americans to purchase lower cost plans from other states, support state high-risk pools to cover those with pre-existing conditions, medical-malpractice reform to end frivolous lawsuits, and tax equity so Americans who don't get their health insurance from an employer are not penalized." "Today's decision, however unfortunate, nonetheless represents an opportunity to all Americans, to claim their right to create a health care system of, for, and by the people, not government or special interests. The American people now have the chance and Congress has the responsibility to fully repeal this Washington takeover and reform health care ourselves, together, around the principles of individual liberty, not government mandates. "The same freedom that made America strong and prosperous will make us healthier, too, so long as politicians remember that the health care system is supposed to serve our people, and not the other way around." **Representative Trey Gowdy's, R.-District 4:** "The question every American should now be asking themselves is what's next? Can Congress 'tax' you for not exercising enough since that impacts the cost of healthcare? Can Congress 'tax' you for eating certain foods or offer 'tax' breaks for avoiding certain foods? Can Congress 'tax' you because you only walk on the treadmill and don't run? Are there any limits to the power of the federal government?" "Our forefathers would not recognize the modern day interpretation of the document they wrote and ratified." "The President said this wasn't a 'tax' and the Supreme Court bailed him out by re-interpreting his argument as a 'tax' rather than as a mandate and an expansion of the commerce clause." "Federalism is gone. The state has the power to control – via mandate or 'tax' - virtually all aspects of your life. It's a sad day for those who believe in personal responsibility and a limited federal government." **Representative Jeff Duncan, R.-District 3:** "ObamaCare interferes with the doctor/patient relationship, causes health insurance premiums to skyrocket, increases our national debt, rations care for seniors, and is a major abuse of federal power. While I'm disappointed in the court's decision, this only strengthens my resolve to push for complete repeal in the United States Congress. "There's no way to fix a law this bad. We're going to have to continue to push for a complete repeal, and once ObamaCare is completely off the books we can start working for ways to reform the system that gets government out of the way and puts patients first. I've never counted on the court to rule one way or another. Congress has been working from day one to repeal and replace this obtrusive law. "The next step towards repealing ObamaCare begins with making Barack Obama a one-term President. There's no way we can repeal ObamaCare and enact the types of common sense health care reforms Americans deserve as long as he's in the White House. Ultimately, the next battle in the fight to repeal ObamaCare will be fought by the American people at the ballot box in November."

September 3, 2012

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley was raised in the Sikh faith and is commenting on the deadly weekend shooting at a Sikh temple in Wisconsin. The governor said on her Facebook page it's sad to see such a thing happen in a place of worship. Haley said her prayers and condolences go out to the families of the victims and a police officer who also was shot. Six worshippers at a Sikh temple in suburban Milwaukee were killed Sunday. The gunman was also killed. Haley's parents immigrated to the United States from India and raised their daughter in their Sikh religion. Haley married her husband in a Methodist service in 1996 and identifies herself as Christian. She said she attends both Methodist and Sikh services out of respect for her parents.

September 5, 2012

Gov. Nikki Haley has made her three appointments to a new South Carolina agency charged with managing the state's retirement and health insurance systems for public workers. Haley announced that she appointed Art Bjontegard, Cindy Hartley and Steve Matthews to the state Public Employee Benefit Authority. The agency was created as part of a law signed in June reforming the state pension system. Bjontegard is former president of South Carolina National Bank, who previously led its pension, investment, and bond departments. Hartley retired from Sonoco, where she was senior vice president for human resources. Matthews is a Columbia attorney. He is past managing director of Haynsworth Sinkler Boyd. They will sit on a newly created, 11-member oversight board. Appointed members must include four beneficiaries of the state retirement plan.

September 11, 2012

The South Carolina Supreme Court will hear an appeal from a Republican activist who accused Gov. Nikki Haley of ethics violations. The court decided Monday it would consider whether a circuit court judge was right when he dismissed John Rainey's lawsuit over the matter earlier this year, sending it to the House Ethics Committee. Rainey says Haley illegally lobbied for an engineering firm and a hospital while a member of the House. The House Ethics Committee cleared the Republican governor in June in hearings that Rainey called a shameful farce. Haley has dismissed the allegations as part of a political vendetta and called Rainey a racist, sexist bigot during the ethics hearings. Rainey was subpoenaed, but never testified at the hearing.

September 20, 2012

The Commerce Department said South Carolina taxpayers spent about \$54,000 on an international trade meeting in Japan. The department said Thursday that's the initial estimate of tax dollars spent on the five-day economic development trip to Tokyo. Most of that went toward travel, hotel rooms and fees for the 35th annual conference of the Japan-U.S. Southeast Association. Commerce Secretary Bobby Hitt says the trip was vital to building the relationships needed to bring jobs to South Carolina. He says state officials participated in 23 meetings. He declined to name specific companies. About 40 people made the trip from South Carolina, including Gov. Nikki Haley, her husband, an aide and her security. Four Commerce employees flew over, joining three time consultants there. Haley was among five Southeastern governors at the conference.

September 25, 2012

Restrictions were passed during Monday's Spartanburg City Council meeting about various video gaming or sweepstakes machines. Video poker machines are illegal, but it's the Internet cafes and sweepstakes machines that now fall under a gray area of restrictions, leaving business owners and consumers wondering what is and is not legal. It's a move some business owners are happy about as they try to shake a bad image. A little more than a year ago the man who runs Pappy's Old Fashioned BBQ said the space where his restaurant is located was once a store front for video gaming. "We've tried to turn this into a family restaurant and do away with anything associated with bars and gaming," said Lee Downey, Pappy's owner. Downey said the old business was busted for having video poker machines stacked side by side, hidden in a storage closet - and that bad image has been hard to shake. A resolution on Monday night's city council agenda hoped to remedy some of those notions and provide restrictions on the machines. Some of the restrictions that were approved included customers must be 18 years or older to frequent Internet cafes, no alcohol can be served, and there are now limitations to how close to schools and churches and other institutions, according to Spartanburg City Attorney Cathy McCabe. There are still gray areas because approval for gaming machines will be on a case-by-case basis. "With video poker machines it's much easier because they were all made the same but with these Internet cafe sweepstakes devices all of them have different ways they use the Internet so it's difficult to make that determination," said McCabe. The city is still waiting for the state to push a moratorium through. Until then, the restrictions are in place within the city limits of Spartanburg. McCabe said there are currently no operating cafes in the city limits.

September 26, 2012

South Carolina's chief accountant says there's no money for nearly \$15 million worth of projects approved in the state budget. Comptroller General Richard Eckstrom said Wednesday the surplus for the fiscal year that ended June 30 was \$14.7 million less than the Legislature expected. After state economic advisers revised their revenue projections for 2011-12, the Legislature designated nearly \$400 million of that anticipated surplus within the 2012-13 budget. Those one-time designations were to be funded in the order listed after Eckstrom closes the books for last fiscal year. The lower-than-anticipated surplus means the bottom part of that list won't get funded. That includes \$3 million for infrastructure in rural areas, \$500,000 for Arts Commission grants, \$1 million for the State Farmers Market, and \$200,000 to advertise the Southeastern Wildlife Exposition.

Attachments



Jobs, Economy, Growth

**ADDRESSING PROBLEM/NEED
THIRD QUARTER 2012**

Problem/Need: **JOBS/ECONOMY/GROWTH**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PROGRAM</u>
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PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS AIRED:

- SC National Guard
- Coast Guard

July 5, 2012

Genetec Global Technologies announced Thursday it will expand its Greenville County operation, creating 160 jobs. The Fountain Inn company said it will open a new operation, Genetec Technology Automation, in Simpsonville, representing a \$1.2 million investment. "South Carolina has provided an excellent business environment for our company," said Genetec Vice President Dan Gehrman. "This expansion will help augment our other businesses - Systems South in Fountain Inn, SC, and IP Systems in Denver - by expanding our market share with innovative designs, increased capacity and global support." The company provides fully integrated manufacturing solutions for the automotive, textile and healthcare industries. Genetec said it will begin hiring for the jobs this month. Interested applicants should inquire at humanresources@genetecautomation.com.

July 11, 2012

A container maker and recycler will create 89 jobs by locating its headquarters in Greenville, the company announced Wednesday. Encore Container said it will locate its new corporate headquarters, manufacturing and recycling facility in an 80,000-square-foot facility at 7021 Augusta Rd. The move represents a \$3.9 million investment, the company said. "Seeing a new company choose South Carolina as the place to start its operations is always exciting," said Gov. Nikki Haley. The company, which makes, leases and recycles plastic drums and totes, said it has already begun hiring and installing equipment in the facility. The new jobs include equipment operators, skilled maintenance positions, customer support, unskilled labor positions, sales, accounting and administrative. People interested in the jobs were asked to submit resumes to HR@EncoreContainer.com

July 12, 2012

Not making enough money? Frustrated with your salary? A worldwide group says they can help. The group is called "Underearners Anonymous" and says "under-earning" is serious, and millions of compulsive under-earners in the workforce need help. UA says it is about underachieving, "or under-being, no matter how much money we make." UA has created a 12-step program, similar to the one Alcoholics Anonymous uses, to treat addiction. They claim if compulsive under-earners continue down the path they're on, it could lead to being put into a mental institution, prison or even suicide. They offer a quiz to help people know if they have a problem. An answer of "yes" to eight questions on their survey may mean the test taker is a compulsive under-earner or headed in that direction. When asked about under-earning and the test, some people in Greenville said they were not surprised under-earning is being treated like an addiction. "Once you start any cycle, often you just repeat it over and over," Christy McCoy said. UA is run by a fellowship of volunteers. FOX Carolina tried contacting them but didn't get a response. Local therapists said settling for less can be an addiction. "People are addicted to safety, people settle to be safe and in the long run it can be very destructive," said Upstate therapist Roger Rhoades. UA does make

it clear - it's not how much you make that can drive one to compulsion, but feeling like you're not where you'd thought you be in terms of savings, career goals or success. Local professionals said that is a root of many of their client's problems. "With the shift in economy we are hearing it more and more, people are coming in with depression issues, anxiety issues," Rhoades said. So what's the secret to those who say they couldn't answer "yes" to a single question on the quiz? Satisfied employee Brian McCants said to explore your options. McCants said as a worker, you can't let the frustration get to you and you have to keep working hard.

July 17, 2012

A job fair being held in Greenville on Saturday aims to fill 50 jobs at ZF Transmissions. The Laurens County company has full-time positions open for maintenance technicians, machine operators and machinists at its Gray Court facility. Human Technologies Inc. will be accepting applications for the positions and conduct interviews with qualified candidates from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Hilton Garden Inn at 108 Carolina Point Pkwy. Interested applicants who cannot attend the job fair were asked to submit their resumes to ZFTGreenville@htijobs.com.

July 30, 2012

Hiring for TD Bank's expansion plans is ramping up next month, as its Greenville call center opens with 70 people. The call center is part of the bank's plans for a regional hub, announced last November. Bank officials say the center will employ about 260 workers by year's end and 550 employees once fully staffed. They are among the 1,600 jobs the bank expects to add in South Carolina by 2016. TD Bank acquired Greenville-based South Financial Group in 2010. Last month marked a year since all signs at the 103 Carolina First branches across the Carolinas were converted to TD Bank. That includes 77 stores in South Carolina. Renovation is underway at the bank's Greenville campus. Call center employees will move into their permanent space there in January.

August 2, 2012

A Fountain Inn company announced Thursday it will expand its operations, creating 279 jobs during the next several years. AVX relocated its corporate headquarters to the southern Greenville County town in 2009. The company said it will invest more than \$14 million in its facility, which supplies electronic components and interconnect solutions to manufacturing and customer support facilities in 15 countries. "Increasing manufacturing and research operations at our global headquarters facility in Fountain Inn, near Greenville, is an important step for our company's growth," said AVX CFO Kurt Cummings. "These new operations will allow us to expand our worldwide activity and broaden our product offering." In addition to 279 new jobs, 150 jobs will be relocated to Fountain Inn from the company's Myrtle Beach operation. "Investments like this one show that our state provides an environment where companies can grow and prosper," said Gov. Nikki Haley. It was not immediately clear what types of jobs will be created or when hiring will begin.

August 6, 2012

Greer could soon become home to an "inland port," according to city leaders. Greer Mayor Rick Danner said officials are still in negotiations with the South Carolina State Ports Authority for the \$23.5 million project. The port would use trains by Norfolk Southern Railway to ship goods and supplies for companies in the Upstate to the Port of Charleston and back. Danner said companies like BMW and Michelin could use the port. The facility will likely be built on the dozens of acres already owned by the state Port Authority near the intersection of state Highway 290 and J. Verne Smith Parkway. Danner said the port would be built using a combination of private and public funds. He said it will bring new jobs to the area, but the number of jobs was not immediately released. Planners hope to have the port operational by next year, Danner said.

August 17, 2012

High unemployment rates continue to plague the country - by the end of June, the U.S. unemployment rate sat at just more than 8 percent. South Carolina's was higher, at 9.1, and North Carolina, at 9.4 percent. Those numbers can be overwhelming for any job seeker, but imagine having a criminal background. Many employers won't hire convicted felons, leaving them scrambling to make ends meet. But there are plans in the works to get non-violent offenders back on the payroll, but it may take a while. Cassandra Hawes, of Greenwood, has been trying for more than a year to get a decent job. She said she applies for multiple jobs a day, and sometimes even interviews, but then is turned down because she has a criminal background. Hawes has a record in South Carolina - a list of misdemeanors dating back to the 90s. She said it's the felony she was convicted of in 2008, criminal conspiracy, that continues to plague her job search. Hawes said she was in the car with someone who was arrested on drug charges, and potential employers tell her that charge is the problem. "They say the charge is not violent, non drug related, why is it hindering me from getting a job if it's not violent and not drug related?" Hawes asked. The job search isn't just a struggle for Hawes. Corinne Davis, with Greenville's SC Works, a state-run unemployment office, said she sees this every day. She said competition is especially stiff because so many people are out of work during this recession. Legally, companies have to interview a person with the right credentials for a job, but Davis said internal policies may keep them from actually hiring a convict. Davis said groups like the National Employment Law Project are trying to rectify the issue. NELP reports that one in four Americans have arrest and conviction records, which means more than a million people in America may be discriminated against during the job search. In South Carolina, of all the people with criminal backgrounds, only a third are still in jail, which is more than 20,000. The Department of Probation and Parole sees another third. At any given time, the PPP reports supervising about 32,000. The rest of those with backgrounds have served their debt to society, but still have the criminal record that hinders their job search. Even in Columbia, state leaders see the problem. Sen. Darrell Jackson (D-District 21) sponsored a bill this past session that would allow all non-violent offenders to go before the pardon and parole board to be given the chance to clear their records. "If these people are not able to find meaningful employment, they're going to resort to old criminal activities," Jackson said. The state department of corrections reports that 85 percent of those locked up will likely end up back in jail at some point for getting back into crime. Jackson's bill didn't make it past the senate subcommittee this year, but he said that he plans to re-introduce the bill next year. Jackson said he will start earlier and work harder to get it passed. Davis said she does hear about employers in the area who do hire candidates with tarnished backgrounds. Confluence Watersports is the largest kayak and canoe manufacturer in the world. The company merged from eight smaller ones and last November, moving its headquarters and factory to Greenville. Confluence Watersports' human resources vice president Shane Cobb said they receive hundreds of applicants a week and they sift through resumes to look for relevant experience first. Cobb said they look at the whole person to see whether they can pass the training program, whether they hope to work in an office or on the factory floor. Applicants need to share if they have a criminal background, but while hiring, Cobb said he looks at the severity of the offense, how long it's been since the offense happened and what the applicant has done since. Cobb said relevant experience is the most important thing they search for in a candidate. "A good employee who may have made a mistake in the past is still a good employee if they're contributing and performing [now]," Cobb said. Other companies we heard were friendly in their hiring practices did not respond to our request for comment. But Cassandra Hawes will continue digging through the classifieds and asking around to land a gig near her home in Greenwood. "I want a job that I can be happy with, [and] know that it's going to take care of me and my family," Hawes said. The U.S. Labor Department has begun federal improvements. In May, it introduced new guidelines for local workforce development centers, like SC Works, to help local employers make job postings fair, without shutting out job-seekers with criminal records.

August 22, 2012

A new steel mill being built in Union County will create 40 jobs. Gonvarri Steel Services, a company based in Spain, said it will open its first plant in the U.S. next year with an initial investment of \$35 million. The company said it will invest another \$15 million and create 25 additional jobs within 10 years. "This new facility consolidates the internationalization process of the company, incorporating our first center in the United States, reinforcing our company as a multinational leader in steel service centers, particularly in the automotive business," said Gonvarri CEO Josu Calvo. The company is a leading steel services provider, processing more than 3.2 million tons of steel last year.

August 31, 2012

An Indiana-based baking company said it will open a new facility in Cherokee County, creating 51 jobs. ACE Bakery, a subsidiary of Weston Foods, said it will produce its line of artisan baked breads at the \$18.4 million facility. "South Carolina offered us the right mix of a business-friendly environment and strong workforce that will help us be successful," said Weston Foods Executive Vice President Ed Holik. Details about the type of jobs being created were not immediately released, but officials said hiring will begin in the coming months.

September 12, 2012

The director of South Carolina's unemployment agency said fired employees are losing jobless benefits as called for under a new state law, though he acknowledges mistakes were made. Director Abraham Turner told senators Wednesday the number of people wrongly awarded benefits will continue to decline. The law signed in June requires automatic denial of benefits for workers fired for misconduct. Turner said employers can help their case by quickly getting more detailed information to the agency. Senate subcommittee chairman Kevin Bryant called the meeting to question why 66 fired workers were awarded the maximum 20 weeks of benefits in the law's first week. The actual number is lower, although it's not known by how much. In several examples legislators began to discuss, agency officials said supervisors reversed the initial ruling.

September 13, 2012

South Carolina's unemployment agency is paying down \$106.5 million of its debt to the federal government two months ahead of schedule. A Department of Employment and Workforce spokeswoman says the agency plans to make the payment Friday. Legislators included \$77 million in unemployment tax relief in their 2012-13 budget. That designation directly benefits businesses by cutting the impending hike on insurance taxes. On average, businesses will save 12 percent. Spokeswoman Mary-Kathryn Craft says businesses will receive revised tax notices in October. Director Abraham Turner said the payment will reduce the agency's debt to \$676 million. The agency had to borrow nearly \$1 billion from the federal government to keep sending checks amid climbing jobless rates. Turner said the agency is on track to pay back every dime by October 2015.

September 18, 2012

Days after receiving news that a plant would leave nearly 600 workers without a job, city officials in Seneca were eager to announce plans for a new hotel. Seneca Mayor Pro Tempore Ronnie O'Kelly said a four-story Hampton Inn and Suites will open in the fall of 2013, creating 38 jobs. Construction on the 100-room hotel is set to begin on Oct. 1 at the East North First Street location. The new tourism addition to town will bring in an estimated \$10 million. City leaders made the announcement Tuesday morning at City Hall. Covidien announced on Sept. 12 that the company plans to close its Seneca facility, impacting 595 full-time and temporary employees by the closure.

September 20, 2012

Amazon's warehouse in Spartanburg shipped its first order Thursday, according to a spokesman for the online retailer. Earlier this year, officials broke ground on the 1 million-square-foot facility near John Dodd Road and Interstate 26. They began hiring for jobs at the warehouse during the summer. Nearly 400 people work at the Amazon Fulfillment Center, according to the spokesman. He said hundreds more are expected to be hired as the holiday retail season begins. Thursday's order was a Canon wireless printer, which was shipped to a customer in Florida, the spokesman said.

September 25, 2012

The Greenville Hospital System board approved a \$1.6 billion 2013 budget Tuesday, which included the addition of 400 jobs and a 4 percent price increase. Hospital leaders said the new, full-time jobs will be added in areas like internal medicine, family medicine, pediatrics and obstetrics and gynecology. They said the additions were prompted by a physician shortage in the Upstate. "Patients will also immediately benefit from greater access to care because of the additional physicians and staff," said GHS Chief Medical Officer Angelo Sinopoli. The new jobs will mean that GHS, Greenville County's largest employer, will employ more than 11,300 people, leaders said. Leaders said the price increase is slightly below the consumer price index for medical care services

September 27, 2012

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring a series of job fairs nationwide for veterans and active-duty military, including one in Spartanburg on Thursday. The Hiring Our Heroes job fair is from 9 a.m. until noon. It is being held at the National Guard Armory located at 301 N. Campus Blvd. on the campus of USC Upstate. The free hiring fair is for veteran job seekers, active duty military members, Guard and Reserve members, and military and veteran spouses. There is another Hiring Our Heroes event scheduled for Oct. 25 in Greenwood at American Legion Post 20 on Calhoun Avenue. For more information on the hiring events and work of Hiring Our Heroes, visit their website.

Attachments



Quality of Life

**ADDRESSING PROBLEM/NEED
THIRD QUARTER 2012**

Problem/Need: **QUALITY OF LIFE**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PROGRAM</u>
Saturdays	12:30am	WESTGATE FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH
Description:	A church service that airs Saturdays at 12:30am. (30:00)	
Sundays	6:00am	MOUNT MORIAH BAPTIST CHURCH
<u>Description:</u>	A church service airing Sunday mornings. (1-hour)	
Sundays	8:30am	MUD CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH
<u>Description:</u>	A church service that airs every Sunday morning. (30:00)	
Sundays	10:30am	FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
<u>Description:</u>	A church service that airs every Sunday morning and Saturday night. (30:00)	

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS AIRED:

- Foundation For A Better Life
- Pet Adoption, Make A Wish

July 5, 2012

They say one man's trash is another's treasure, and a new History Channel show called *Picked Off* forces contestants to take that saying to the bank. The show squared off teams of pickers, or those who buy vintage and resell for a profit. The show contestants competed with \$10,000 prize money on the line. A pair from the Greenville area made it onto the show, and they will make their national TV picking debut on the History Channel in August.. Shelby Robinson and Christie Maull are amateur pickers. Thursday they met FOX Carolina at a local antique shop, Shinola in Greenville, to offer tips to be successful at purchasing vintage items and reselling them for profit. In Shinola antiques are piled to the sky. There is also a thinking garden, filled with chickens and goats on the store property. "We're not your typical grandmother's antique store," said owner Ben Mcdaniel. Shinola is right up Maull and Robinson's alley for purchasing collectibles. At Shinola, they see treasure to be picked up that will pay off. The two buy vintage and restore it, or just sell it back as is for a profit. They've made up to a few thousand dollars off of one purchase. "It's the needle in the haystack that gets me going, I love it," Robinson said. The pair's hobby got the attention of television producers, landing a spot in the History Channel's *Picked Off* as a duo with flavor. "They referred to us as the 'Spice Girls,'" Maull said. "Shelby was scary spice, I was Ginger." In *Picked Off*, the two went up against three other teams, armed with \$100. They battled to nab the items that could sell for the most money. "With anything you pick, you may make \$5, but you never want to loose," Maull said. "You may make \$500." Maull and Robinson's advice to new pickers is do some homework. Focus on one area that's already a hobby, and study it. "Look online, see

what's selling," Robinson said. "What's hot, what's not." *Picked Off* begins July 11 at 10 p.m. on the History Channel. Maull and Robinson's episode airs Aug. 1 at 10 p.m. They will host a viewing party open to the public at CT's Grillin and Chillen in Greenville that night. When they aren't picking, Maull runs Hot Rod's used furniture store in Greenville. Robinson runs her own business on Esty.com, under the name BeBopProps.

July 24, 2012

Lottery officials said someone in the Upstate bought a winning \$200,000 Palmetto Cash 5 ticket in Greenville. South Carolina Education Lottery officials said the winner bought the ticket from Garden Spot Food Store at 1913 Cedar Lane Road for Monday night's drawing. The ticket holder "Powered-Up" for an additional \$1, doubling the \$100,000 top prize to \$200,000. The winning numbers for the July 23 game were: 9, 14, 30, 31, and 36 Power-Up 2. Player shave 180 days from the date of the drawing to claim prizes. The odds of winning \$200,000 playing Palmetto Cash 5 are 1 in 1,003,884. Someone else in the Upstate is holding a winning \$250,000 lottery ticket from Friday's Mega Millions drawing.

July 26, 2012

A popular fast food restaurant closes its doors every Sunday because of the founder's religious beliefs, and now the company's president has taken a stance on gay marriage. The fallout from Chick-fil-A president Dan Cathy's position is not going away. It's the famous fried chicken sandwich wrapped in foil. Chick-fil-A restaurants are known for its "Eat More Chikin" slogan - and now some will eat, and others won't. "I was just really hurt by it," Ra'Shawn Barlow-Flournony said. Flournony is a gay rights activist in the Upstate. He married his partner last year and says he no longer supports Chick-fil-A because of comments made by Cathy. "I understand that it's his personal opinion; however, again, that's one of those things that's kind of dividing our country," Flournony said. During a radio interview on the Ken Coleman Radio Show about fatherlessness in America, Cathy commented about gay marriage. "I think we're inviting God's judgment on our nation when we shake our fist at him and say, you know, we know better than you as to what constitutes marriage," Cathy said. "And I pray God's mercy on our generation that has such a prideful, arrogant attitude to think that we would have the audacity to try and redefine what marriage is all about." Cathy is getting support from many throughout the country. Pastors and politicians are organizing an "Eat More Chikin" Chick-fil-A Appreciation Day on Aug. 1. Kathy Hopkins said she supports Cathy's right to stick to his religious beliefs. "Just because he's against gay marriage doesn't mean he hates gay people," Hopkins said. She said everyone has a right to their opinions and religious beliefs. "I don't think we should boycott because he has expressed the way he believes," Hopkins said. But, Barlow-Flournony plans to boycott. He said the gay marriage comments are just too hard to swallow. "I'm working with a team of people to do a do not eat Chick-fil-A on Aug. 1," Flournony said. Donald Perry, vice president of public relations with Chick-fil-A, released this statement: "The Chick-fil-A culture and service tradition in our restaurants is to treat every person with honor, dignity and respect - regardless of their belief, race, creed, sexual orientation or gender. Going forward, our intent is to leave the policy debate over same-sex marriage to the government and political arena," Perry said.

July 27, 2012

Interstate 85 was shutdown and community members gathered to show their support for a fallen National Guardsmen as his body was brought back home Friday. The remains of Sgt. 1st Class Matthew Bradford Thomas landed at Greenville-Spartanburg International Airport Friday morning, and a motorcade took to Interstate 85 headed for downtown Easley to honor his service and return. Thomas' wife asked the community to line the streets with American flags in hand after he died in Afghanistan on June 20. Thomas was one of three South Carolina National Guard soldiers killed, and five were injured. The Guardsmen were serving in the 133rd Military Police Company, which is based in Florence County. The unit was activated last November and were scheduled to return home in August. Their mission is to train members of the Afghan police. Sixteen members of the South Carolina National Guard have died in combat operations in Afghanistan and Iraq since 2003.

July 30, 2012

A new Bible translation tackles the challenge of turning ancient Greek and Hebrew texts into modern American English and then adds a twist: It's written like a screenplay. Take the passage from Genesis in which God gets angry at Adam for eating the forbidden fruit from the tree of knowledge of good and evil: "Adam (pointing at the woman): It was she! The woman You gave me as a companion put the fruit in my hands, and I ate it. "God (to the woman): What have you done? "Eve: It was the serpent! He tricked me, and I ate." Later, Eve bears her first son, Cain. "Eve (excited): Look, I have created a new human, a male child, with the help of the Eternal." Even people who have never read the Bible could probably guess that other translations don't say Adam pointed his finger at Eve when he blamed her for his disobedience. Neither do other Bibles describe Eve as "excited" about her newborn son. That's pure Hollywood, but the team behind "The Voice" says it isn't a gimmick. They hope this new version will help readers understand the meaning behind the sometimes archaic language of the Bible and enjoy the story enough to stick with it. The idea was a longtime dream of Chris Seay, pastor of Houston's Ecclesia Church. Seay had had success in helping church members relate to the Bible by dividing out the parts of the various speakers and assigning roles to church members who read them aloud. The idea struck a nerve with Frank Couch, the vice president of translation development for Nashville-based religious publisher Thomas Nelson, who had performed Bible-inspired sketches on the streets of Berkeley, Calif., in his youth. The result of their efforts, as well as a team of translators who worked alongside poets, writers and musicians, is "The Voice," released in its full version earlier this year. "The biggest thing, the unexpected plus, is that people will read an entire book of the Bible because it reads like a novel," Couch said. "It engages your imagination in a different way," Seay said, expressing his hope that "The Voice" helps people to "fall in love with the story of the Bible." "The Voice" not only reformats the Bible but also inserts words and phrases into the text to clarify the action or smooth transitions. These words are generally in italics so the reader can tell what the additions are. At other points, the order of verses is changed to make the story read better. Some earlier attempts to make the Bible accessible to a modern audience met with heavy criticism from people who thought the translators were taking too many liberties with the word of God, Wake Forest University Religion Professor Bill Leonard said. But those translators were attempting to deal with a real problem - increasing Bible illiteracy, even among those who attended church regularly, he said. Eugene Peterson, translator of the popular "The Message" Bible, published in 1993, said he was braced for the negative reaction faced by some of his predecessors, but they didn't materialize. "I was surprised that the reception was so immediate and so positive," he said. "...I think the one thing I hear most often is, 'This is the first time in my life I understood the Bible.'" Leonard said modern translations seem to have become less controversial as the total number of Bible translations has expanded, although the 2011 New International Version managed to cause a stir by employing some gender-neutral and gender-inclusive language, something "The Voice" doesn't do. It does, however, take out the word "Christ," which many people have come to think of as Jesus' last name, rather than a title bestowed upon him by the Gospel writers to show that they believed he was God's "Anointed One" - the chosen translation in "The Voice." All Bible translators have to confront the problem of words that don't convey the same meaning to a modern audience as they did to an ancient one, said linguist Joel M. Hoffman, author of "And God Said - How Translations Conceal the Bible's Original Meaning." "For example, 'John the Baptist' was really like 'John the Dunker,'" Hoffman said. John was doing something new by submerging people in water to cleanse them of their sins, but that is lost on people 2,000 years later, Hoffman said. Today, people hearing John's title might think it refers to a Baptist denomination rather than his then-strange behavior. In the Old Testament, translators of "The Voice" have rendered YHWH (commonly written as Yahweh), the Hebrew name for God, as "the Eternal" or "the Eternal One." 1 of the Bible's most famous passages, Psalm 23, reads, "The Eternal is my shepherd ..." Most other translations render YHWH as "Lord," a word that was rich with meaning in a time when people lived in subjection to absolute monarchs but not so much for contemporary Americans living in a democracy, Couch said. Hoffman said he would buy the argument against using "Lord" if the translators didn't go on to sometimes call Jesus "the Liberating King," another reference to royalty that has lost its grip on the modern American imagination. "When I think of a king, I think of a powerless figurehead," Hoffman said. But Hoffman said the goal of making the Bible accessible to a contemporary audience is laudable, even if he doesn't always agree with the translations in "The Voice." And for the average reader, unaware of the sometimes contentious debates over translation, "The Voice" seems to have struck a chord. Steve Taylor, who directed the recent Christian movie "Blue Like Jazz" and also was 1 of the screenwriters, said the screenplay format makes the Bible stories feel more immediate to him. "It was like it was happening now, as opposed to reading something that happened 2,000 years ago," he said. "When Jesus turns the water into wine in John 2, I felt more like I was at the wedding. I felt the awkwardness of the situation." Getting readers to feel engaged in the story is exactly what the creators of "The Voice" had in mind, Couch said. "We had an 82-year-old woman who told us that she had never understood the Bible before."

August 1, 2012

The Boiling Springs Fire Department used the Fourth of July to dedicate a new memorial honoring those who were killed in the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. In the shadow of an American Flag, firefighters stood at attention around a piece of steel pulled from the wreckage of the World Trade Center. Local leaders talked about the importance of remembering those killed in the worst attack on American soil since Pearl Harbor. "If we want to defend our freedom, we have to be prepared," said Greenville County Council Chairman Butch Kirven. "We have to be vigilant, and we have to fight for it." "It shows how the Greenville community becomes one, whether it's a time of tragedy, (a) time to remember or (a) time to celebrate," said Boiling Springs Fire Chief Steve Graham. The department applied to receive the nearly 6' tall, 1,400-pound steel beam in 2009, and last year its application was granted. Since then, neighboring businesses of the Pelham Road station and people in the community have worked together to build the memorial - the steel beam next to a glass panel, representing the future, in the middle of the firefighter emblem. Dozens of people attended the dedication ceremony Wednesday. Some touched the piece of history, others took pictures and others were brought to tears. "We just felt it was important to be here, especially with our 3-year-old son, to show how we respect people who give their lives for our freedoms," said Van Thomas, who attended the dedication. "It affected all of us," said Carol Floriani, who moved to the Upstate after living near New York City for years. "Not only being from the area, but nationally and internationally." Some said the memorial not only marks a dark day in America's history, but also shows home and unity for the future. "How appropriate is that?" asked Graham. "To be able to dedicate a memorial like this to those Americans who lost their lives - on America's birthday - and show we're going to get back up." The new plaza is open to the public.

August 13, 2012

A 20-year-old Clemson University student from Laurens County has been crowned the new Miss South Carolina. Ali Rogers won the honor Saturday night at Township Auditorium in Columbia. She was competing as Miss Laurens County. Rogers was Miss South Carolina Teen 2009. This year she was a swimsuit preliminary winner. She will go on to compete in the Miss America Pageant in Las Vegas in January. Meanwhile, 17-year-old Rachel Wyatt was crowned Miss South Carolina Teen 2012. The teen from Piedmont was competing as Miss Greater Mauldin Teen. She will compete in Miss America's Outstanding Teen in August in Orlando, FL. Other contestants from the Upstate who made the top five included Miss Greater Lyman Mya Kayler, who was the first runner up and named most photogenic; Miss Greater Mauldin Lauren Cabaniss who was third runner up and won the overall swimsuit competition; and Miss Simpsonville Lara Scott who was fourth Runner Up. In the Miss SC Teen pageant, Miss Greater Mauldin Teen Brook Sill was first runner up and Miss Greater Lyman Teen Sydney Sill was second Runner Up.

August 24, 2012

According to Spartanburg County deputies, two months ago 39-year-old Carmela Rivera was shot in the head by her estranged husband while she was working at the Denny's restaurant in Boiling Springs. Rivera survived the attack, and Saturday her co-workers stepped forward to help her recover. Friends said Rivera is doing fine, but now she faces new problems. She was not insured at the time of the attack, and has been out of work for two months healing from her gunshot wounds. Her co-workers are asking for the community's help to get a woman they say everyone loved back on her feet. Carmela Rivera worked at Denny's for seven years as a cook and had a good reputation. "When she would see customers come in the door, she would immediately know what they wanted," said Dale Johnson, district manager for Denny's in South Carolina. "She was an amazing cook and she was great with the customers," said the Boiling Springs Denny's General Manager Selena Carter. "She loved her job." Now, employees say the restaurant isn't the same. Rivera hasn't been able to return to work since authorities said she was shot three times by estranged husband 49-year old Marcelino Rivarra in the parking lot of the restaurant in May. It was an incident her co-workers said they never saw coming. "I was very shocked, this is such a family restaurant and it's just a low-key shop," said Johnson. Saturday her co-workers, including those who were working the day she was attacked, were determined to turn this tragedy into something positive. They hosted a benefit to bring the community's families closer to together, and get Rivera healthy and back to the Denny's kitchen. "We want her to have a very happy, healthy life," said Johnson. "We want her back at Denny's as soon as she is able and can get back." The restaurant managers said the community has been very supportive and that people came forward to help the family the day after the shooting. The Boiling Springs Denny's, located near the intersection of Highway 9 and Interstate 85, will continue to accept donations at that location to benefit the family.

August 28, 2012

Many girls want to be a princess, but they don't ever get the chance except when playing dress-up. One Upstate girl had her royal dreams granted when she was made queen for the day at her Greenville church. Katy James, 16, recently learned she only had six weeks to live. Katy has always loved pageants, but her mom, Rita James, said the plans to honor her started on a different path a few months ago. "She is the director of Salem's Bible school and she volunteered to do that back in April," said Rita James. Her mom said all Katy wanted to do was volunteer, but her hospice nurses had a bigger plan in mind. They wanted to name her "Queen of Bible School 2012" at Salem United Methodist Church in Greenville. It was a surprise for Katy, and an honor considering everything she has been through this year. "She has an inoperable brain tumor. She has been through chemo and radiation," said Rita James. Despite her diagnosis, Katy got the royal treatment with a crown, sash, roses and special messages from several title holders in South Carolina. "Everyone from here on out is for team Katy," said Miss Fountain Inn Anna Catherine English. "I am just so blessed and honored to be here in your presence," said Miss Lyman Daja Dial. It's a surprise that didn't have this new beauty queen at a loss for words. "God can bring anybody together and he is always here. He is always with us no matter what and doing amazing things," said Katy. Katy's health has worsened over the last month and she is now in a wheelchair, but she says God has an incredible plan for her life.

September 5, 2012

The first week in September is Spirit Week for Eastside High School and Wade Hampton High School, and although it is a time to prepare for their big Friday Night Football game, it is also a seven-day marathon for each school's student council to try to raise as much funding as they can. Eastside High School is holding fundraisers and charity events to collect donations for the cure for Angelman Syndrome, a condition that causes physical problems in children. Meanwhile, Wade Hampton is raising money for the Meyer Center, which provides care for kindergarten aged children who have developmental disabilities such as Down Syndrome and Cerebral Palsy. Last year, the two schools combined to raise more than \$300,000 for their respective charities, and this year they both hope to do more. Eastside's charity choice got students some national attention earlier in August when Colin Farrell posted a thank you video to the school on YouTube. The winners of this year's Spirit Week will be announced during halftime of their game Friday night.

September 11, 2012

Students from four Greenville County high school raised a combined total of \$586,226.35 for local charities during their spirit week competitions. The spirit week competitions were between rival high schools Eastside and Wade Hampton, and Greenville and J.L. Mann. They ended Friday night when the total donations were tallied and presented at the school's football games. Eastside High will donate \$150,020.13 to the Foundation for Angelman Syndrome Therapeutics, while Wade Hampton High's \$206,083.66 will be donated to the Meyer Center for Special Children. Greenville High Academy students raised \$112,754.94 for Chris and Kelly's Hope Foundation, an agency that works to prevent drug addiction, while J.L. Mann High Academy's students raised \$117,367.62, which will be donated to Project Hope Foundation for children with autism. Many Greenville County high schools host spirit week competitions with their rivals, hosting various activities including volleyball, basketball and dodge ball tournaments, silent auctions, hot dog and spaghetti dinners, profits from local restaurant sales, and midnight movie events. The schools' student councils select an organization to donate the funds raised to. Other spirit weeks planned this year include Riverside High the week of Sept. 14-21, Carolina High School Academy the week of Sept. 24-28, Blue Ridge and Hillcrest high schools during the week of Oct. 8-12, Mauldin High in February and Travelers Rest High the week of March 22-28

September 12, 2012

Union County is usually known for its small town feel. But increasingly, the sheriff there said they've been seeing "big city" problems. "One you admit you have a problem, you have to do what you can to address it," Sheriff David Taylor said. The problem? Gangs - rival groups going after one another. Incidents like the shooting at the Corner Pocket in August show just how big the problem is becoming - four people were arrested in that case on attempted murder charges. There was also another shooting in August that ended in the death of a high school student. "We had some issues with some different groups of people in the county. And some people were in denial that we had that problem," Taylor said. Now, with that realization, there are people speaking up, and stepping out. People like Robert Hill. "With everything that seems to be going on here, shootings and activities going on, we decided we wanted to do a march here," Hill said. Hill is organizing a march Saturday in Union, set to send a clear message - there's no need for gangs in Union County, and whatever gangs are there

aren't welcome. "Union, small town, you know they always say it'll never happen to us," he said. "It is happening to us." The sheriff admitted the problem won't fix itself with a march, but he said the more people know about the problem, the more they can do something about it. "The law enforcement can't fix it. The judicial system can't fix it. We got to fix and deal with this problem within our community and our civic leaders and organizations have to step up to the plate and say 'what can we do to make things better,'" he said. The march will be happening Saturday morning starting at the Old Sims High School, and proceed to the Union County Courthouse.

September 14, 2012

Right now there are 30 dogs and puppies at Greenville County Animal Care that need to be fostered until September 28. That's when they will be flown to different destinations across the U.S. to their forever homes through a program called "Pilots and Paws." Fostering means that you bring a dog or cat into your home for a temporary amount of time. You would care for the animal like your own, and help them become healthy and adoptable! You will be provided with food and a crate if you need one. By doing this, you are helping GCACS free up space in the shelter for more animals to come in, plus you are helping your foster pet prepare to be with their future family. GCACS always needs fosters, but right now there's a heightened need because of the Sept. 28 flight with Pilots and Paws. If you'd like to foster, contact Susan Bufano at sbufano@greenvillecounty.org or call 864-467-3986.

September 14, 2012

A Laurens man who is now paralyzed from the neck says he wouldn't change a thing, because without his paralysis, he wouldn't have discovered his passion for producing gospel music. A single-car crash left Gabriel Anderson paralyzed from the neck down, which followed many years of struggle and trouble for Anderson. Anderson grew up with a mother addicted to cocaine. He had to steal so he and his younger sister could eat, which led him down a dangerous path of drugs and violence. By age 18, Anderson was serving a nine-year prison sentence for drugs, possession of a firearm, and assault and battery. He was released after five years, but just two months later, he was back in confinement. This time - a hospital room. "The car started spinning around, hit a tree, the seat snapped and my neck just snapped," said Anderson. It took years for Anderson to accept his new reality. He said he felt imprisoned by his body. A body that no longer moved as it once did. "I wanted to die," said Anderson. "I didn't want to live. I couldn't take it." He said God and gospel music gave him the will to live. "Without music, I really couldn't tell you where I would be," said Anderson. Almost 15 years after the accident, Anderson is making a name for himself in the local gospel music industry as a producer and rapper. He recently put out a gospel CD with singer Victoria Garlington called "Let's Give Him Some Praise." They record their music in his house first, then they record it in a local studio. They often perform their music around Laurens. Anderson produces the music with a program on his computer using a mouth stick to click on the buttons. He calls his mouth stick his arm. One day Anderson said he got tired of depending on others, so he had his nurse bring him a stick from his yard. Now he has a professionally made mouth stick. "I was just amazed when I first met him," said Garlington. "He can answer the phone, turn on the TV, get on the computer, look stuff up, he makes me CDs." Garlington said Anderson is a living testimony. "Bad things are going to happen," said Garlington. "That's life. God never said everything will be good all the time. Just trust in him, he will bring you through." "Now I got to live with my mind and my heart, before I was living with my body," said Anderson. "I thought it was all about looks, but now it ain't about that" Surprising to some, Anderson calls the accident that left him in need of constant care a blessing. "I would rather be like this and know God than to be walking and not know God, because I didn't know God when I was walking," said Anderson. Anderson is a man named after the angel Gabriel and found his wings during what many would call a living nightmare. Now he uses those wings to soar by inspiring others through music.